

Split threatens Israel's opposition

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The deputy leader of Israel's right-wing opposition Likud bloc has threatened to quit, leaving the party in danger of a split as it leads the polls ahead of next year's general election. "If we do not get our share of representation within the Likud, we will leave," David Levy warned on Monday night before 1,000 cheering supporters at a rally in Tel Aviv. "A large number of Likud MPs are unhappy with the current leadership of the party but are saying nothing. This party has turned into a Trappist monastery," the former foreign minister said. Relations between Benjamin Netanyahu and Mr. Levy have soured since the former succeeded Yitzhak Shamir as Likud leader in March 1993. Mr. Levy insisted in Tel Aviv on changes in the system of primaries within the party. The 30 per cent who support him within the Likud central committee are not adequately represented in parliament, he said. "The head of the party must be elected on proportional lines to allow the majority to keep its strength but not eliminate the large minority factions," he said. Mr. Netanyahu, an Ashkenazi or Jew from Europe, has so far kept silent on the challenge from Mr. Levy, a Sephardic Jew of Moroccan origin.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراي

Le Pen praises Algeria's rebels

PARIS (R) — French extreme right-wing presidential candidate Jean-Marie Le Pen praised Algeria's Islamic rebels on Tuesday as resistance fighters against a dictatorship he compared to Hitler's Nazis. Mr. Le Pen said the director general of Algeria's leading government-controlled newspaper Al Mujahid, shot dead last week in Algiers by suspected Muslim guerrillas, was the equivalent of the boss of a "newspaper of the Nazi party." National Front leader Le Pen, an outsider in the April-May presidential election, blasted Algeria's ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) as a corrupt and bloody dictatorship. "The supporters of the dictatorial power of the FLN are persecuted by the resistance of the FIS" (Islamic Salvation Front), Mr. Le Pen said in an interview with RTL Radio.

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King, Queen in New York

NEW YORK (Petra) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor arrived in New York from Rochester on Tuesday where His Majesty underwent regular medical checkups at the Mayo Clinic. The tests were good and reassuring and showed that the King was enjoying full health. The King and Queen were accompanied by their Royal Highnesses Princess Zein, Prince Ali and Prince Hamzah, Health Minister Aref Bajalneh, Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Khabiri and the King's military advisor Major-General Hameid Al Fayez.

They were received at the Kennedy airport in New York by Prime Minister Shafiq Zeid Ben Shaker, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasbi, their Royal Highnesses Princess Talal and Princess Ghida, Jordan's Ambassador to the U.N. Adnan Abu Odeh, Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb, Minister of Planning Rima Khafaf and other Jordanian and American officials.

Prince Faisal, Kavar discuss transport issues

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein on Tuesday visited the Ministry of Transport and met with Transport Minister Samir Kavar. The minister briefed the Prince on the ministry's role and duties and efforts exerted by the ministry's teams to improve the transport sector. Prince Faisal expressed keenness in the issue of transport in general, and the issue of air transport in particular.

Muasher, Shamir due in Tel Aviv, Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's Ambassador-designate to Israel Marwan Al Muasher will leave for Tel Aviv Thursday via the King Hussein Bridge to assume his duties as the Kingdom's first ambassador to the Jewish state. Israel's first ambassador to Jordan, Shimon Shamir, will also arrive in Amman via the King Hussein Bridge to assume his duties the same day. Diplomatic ties between Jordan and Israel came in implementation of the peace treaty the two countries signed Oct. 26, 1994.

JPA to appeal to PM over newsprint

AMMAN (Petra) — The board of the Jordan Press Association (JPA) on Tuesday decided to send a memorandum to Prime Minister Shafiq Zeid Ben Shaker, requesting that the government exempt all newsprint imported by newspapers from all taxes and tariffs. In a meeting chaired by JPA President Suleiman Al Qudah, the association board demanded that the government reconsider its recent decision exempting 50 per cent of imported newsprint from customs duties. The board discussed a memorandum presented to it by management of newspapers on the rise of newsprint prices in the world market, expressing readiness to reconsider their decision to raise newspaper prices if the government agrees to exempt their paper imports from customs duties and all other taxes.

Oil firms invited to explore in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Natural Resources Authority (NRA) has invited 60 world companies specialised in oil exploration to work in the Kingdom. NRA Director General Fakhreddin Al Jaghastani on Tuesday said that Daghestani said NRA had received positive responses from several of these companies whose representatives have already started visiting the authority to gain geological information on several areas in the Kingdom.

Jordan, Israel sign agreement on tourism

DEIR ALLA (J.T.) — Jordan and Israel signed an agreement Tuesday to cooperate in promoting tourism to both countries which are rich with biblical and archaeological sites.

The agreement on tourism is among the accords designed to regulate bilateral ties under the Jordan-Israel peace treaty signed on Oct. 26.

Tourism Minister Abdul Illah Khatib and his Israeli counterpart Uzi Baram signed the accord at a ceremony in a state guest-house in this Jordan Valley town.

The tourism undersecretaries of the two countries initiated the accord on Feb. 9, the day when Israel completed the return of occupied Jordanian land under the peace treaty.

The agreement calls for broad coordination, including marketing joint tour packages, exchanging information and cooperation between the two national airlines (see text of accord on page 3).

Tourism is a key source of revenue for both countries, with biblical sites that attract more than two million visitors to Israel and about one fourth the number to Jordan each year.

After signing the five-page document in a ceremony attended by officials from both countries, Mr. Khatib said Jordan hoped the accord will "contribute to improving

the social and economic conditions after the suffering and misery of so many years."

"Tourism is a guarantee for better and more peaceful future," said Mr. Baram. "It is clear to everyone now that an increase of tourism to the entire region will be the best contribution to stability in the countries of the area."

The accord stipulates exchange of information on matters concerning tourism, joint promotional activities and joint efforts to encourage tourism from third countries.

A joint commission will be set up to carry out articles stipulated in the agreement, which is valid for three years and renewable thereafter.

An agreement in transport is expected to be signed May 10 will complement the tourism accord. It will clear the way for vehicles from both countries to enter each other's territories and allow close interaction between the national air carriers, Royal Jordanian and El Al.

In his address following the signing ceremony, Mr. Khatib expressed hope that reaching comprehensive peace on all negotiating tracks will further encourage tourism to and within the Middle East.

Stressing the significance of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, Mr. Khatib said: "As we meet to sign the second in the series of agreements of the peace treaty, we are already witnessing growth in

tourist traffic to our region. This shows how interrelated are peace and tourism."

He said it was the responsibility of the two countries to translate this tourist traffic into tangible and direct benefits for peoples.

"Our people have the right to demand that such economic gains should go hand in hand with preserving our national heritage, culture and values," Mr. Khatib said. Tuesday's agreement was another important achievement in this new era of peace, he said.

"We hope that this agreement will result in developing tourism in the spirit of fairness and equity within a regional framework, where tourism activities will be conducted in a balanced way that takes into consideration the carrying capacity and the environmental setting of our sites," he added.

The Israeli minister on his part said he was proud of signing the agreement, describing it as the first economic agreement between the two countries after the peace treaty.

He reviewed achievements by the two countries in the tourism sector saying land passages for tourism were opened between Jordan and Israel in the south and the north and thousands of Israelis, Jordanians and tourists from third countries are

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Ross due in Mideast to push Syria-Israel talks

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. Special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross will travel to the Middle East on Wednesday to advance negotiations between Israel and Syria over the Golan Heights, Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Tuesday.

Mr. Christopher told the Anti-Defamation League, a Jewish civil rights group, that Mr. Ross would discuss with Israeli and Syrian leaders security arrangements to guarantee a potential Israeli withdrawal from the Heights.

The Israeli and Syrian ambassadors in Washington have been discussing security arrangements for the past week. Mr. Ross is expected to seek to broaden the talks by involving military experts from both sides.

"I am convinced if we can make progress on security issues it will have a positive effect for the rest of the negotiations," Mr. Christopher said in a speech to the league.

The United States has focused the Israeli-Syrian talks on security arrangements and away from the core political issues of how far and how fast Israel would withdraw on the Golan Heights.

Mr. Christopher said he had told both Israel and Syria that 1995 was a "critical year" for the negotiations because of elections due in Israel and the United States in 1996. "Electoral clocks are ticking," the secretary of state said.

The Ross mission follows a flare-up of violence on the Lebanese-Israeli border. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Monday that ambassador-level bilateral talks taking place in Washington had stumbled

10 said killed in Iran riots

AKBAR ABAD (Agencies) — Security forces shot dead at least 10 demonstrators and wounded dozens more in a riot over price rises in his working-class town just outside Tehran on Tuesday, witnesses said.

Anti-riot units of the Revolutionary Guards militia opened fire to disperse a crowd of several hundred demonstrators who were protesting against public transport price hikes.

Witnesses said between 10 and 50 people were killed, most of them by gunfire, while dozens of others were wounded. There was no immediate official casualty toll.

Most of the victims were young, the witnesses said. Security forces also made dozens of arrests, they said.

Akbar Abad, home to workers too poor to live in the capital, has a population of around 8,000 and lies 30 kilometres southwest of Tehran.

Several public buildings, two petrol stations and a bank were set on fire and the town was later sealed off and patrolled by anti-riot units, an AFP correspondent reported.

Militiamen arrested groups of young people and turned them over to security forces, the correspondent said.

A car was seen, several hours after the clashes, taking three of the wounded to hospital in Tehran, and ambulances also headed towards the capital, Akbar Abad itself has no hospital.

The town centre was closed off to traffic and practically deserted by the afternoon. Remains of fires, broken windows, burned tyres and rubble were strewn across the streets, while a burned-out Revolutionary Guard vehicle blocked the main road.

The violence erupted early Tuesday as several hundred demonstrators armed with clubs and stones gathered in the centre of Akbar Abad, inhabitants said.

The crowds disarmed police before anti-riot units of the Revolutionary Guards intervened and opened fire, they said.

The clashes were the most serious in Iran since riots in the industrial city of Ghazvin

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His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Tuesday receives a Care International award from Malcolm Fraser, Care International chairman and a former Australian premier, in a ceremony attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath (Petra photo)

Crown Prince accepts Care award in recognition of service to humanity

HRH calls for urgent efforts to address humanitarian issues around the world

By Cathy King
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Tuesday was awarded the Care International Humanitarian Award for his distinguished service to humanity. The award was presented by Care International President and former Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser.

"His Royal Highness is indeed a true humanitarian, embodying the notions of equality, justice and compassion," Mr. Fraser said at a ceremony where the Crown Prince accepted the award.

The board of Care International "is delighted to present His Royal Highness with this award, in recognition of the many years he has devoted to global humanitarian concerns," said Mr. Fraser.

The award, a bronze sculpture entitled "Deprivation" by British artist Malcolm Woodward, was inspired by a personal visit by the artist to drought-stricken areas in the developing world.

Prince Hassan in an acceptance speech, stressed the urgent need for humanitarian agencies to be able to continue their work, as the "imminent disaster has arrived."

"I am proud to accept the Care International award, he said. "Amid the dark despair of the 20th century, Care International represents a shining beacon of hope. It has the courage to point the way to a future which organisations of our kind will no longer, one day, be necessary. A future in which considerations become the touchstone, rather than the political or economic or military considerations."

The Crown Prince told an invited audience of dignitaries, organisation representatives and journalists in many parts of world daily situations have "never been worse." Statistics and images received via the media are a "harrowing testimony."

"The causes vary but the outcome is one in the same. The fragile social web has collapsed. Human beings are suffering needlessly. People who need no die, are dead."

To challenge the harsh realities, Prince Hassan called for the immediate consequences of humanitarian disasters to be addressed rapidly, efficiently and effectively.

However, he added, circumstances that have given rise to such humanitarian disasters should be remedied, "ensuring that they will not occur again."

"Humanitarian aid that treats symptoms while ignoring or obscuring causes is worse than no aid at all. For it propagates the idea of inevitability," Prince Hassan asserted. "The public comes to believe that human suffering is inevitable, and so injured, ceases to care about it. That is not the objective of humanitarian aid. It must therefore address the causes as well as the consequences."

The Care International Humanitarian award honours those who have made a distinguished contribution towards a better world. Award recipients are selected by the board of Care International.

The Crown Prince was chosen by Care International because of his promotion of the "concept of a new international humanitarian order, calling for new global ethics of human responsibility and care," Mr. Fraser said.

It is also in recognition of the integral part Prince Hassan played in His Majesty King Hussein "visionary action" signing the peace treaty with Israel in Oct. 26, 1994. He has also been instrumental in such humanitarian disasters.

He reviewed achievements by the two countries in the tourism sector saying land passages for tourism were opened between Jordan and Israel in the south and the north and thousands of Israelis, Jordanians and tourists from third countries are

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Trilateral committee studies projects, financing

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian, Israeli and American officials on Tuesday held board discussions on development projects in the Jordan Rift Valley and means of financing them with close private sector involvement, participants said.

Means for funding for projects appeared one of the key themes of the meeting of the Jordanian-American-Israeli steering committee at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS).

The meeting, which comes ahead of a seminar in Amman later this month on economic development, was attended by American businessmen who travelled here on their own expense in what was described by the participants as a sign of their keen interest in Jordan Rift Valley projects.

Qusai Quteishat, who led the Jordanian delegation, said the meeting discussed a \$3 million Italian government offer to finance the second phase of a feasibility study on developing the valley and defining the terms of reference for several projects in the area, including a Red-Dead Sea canal aimed at preserving the ecological features of the area and addressing part of the water shortage.

The projects being studied were proposed in a comprehensive programme for Jordan Rift Valley development jointly drawn up by Jordan, the United States and Israel. A company contracted by the World Bank is conducting the first phase of studies and preparing documents.

The overall programme includes several mega-projects such as the Red-Dead Sea Canal that involve billions of dollars in investment and whose output will be shared by Jordan and Israel as well as smaller projects in energy, transport, communications, tourism and related areas.

Tuesday's trilateral meeting in Amman was also in

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'Engineer' said to have escaped Gaza blast

Turks accused of killing 7 shepherds

GAZA CITY (AP) — Palestinian police were investigating Tuesday whether the mastermind of suicide bombings who tops Israel's most-wanted list died in an explosion at what has been described as a secret bomb factory of the military group Hamas.

A senior Palestinian official said there were indications that the elusive bomb maker, Yehiya Ayash, was at the Hamas hideout in Gaza City on Sunday, the day of the explosion.

Shortly after the blast, several Hamas leaders went to the morgue at Gaza City's Shifa hospital with a list of names of people who were at the hideout, and Ayash appeared on the list, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The Hamas leaders then asked to see the bodies of the six victims, and walked away convinced that Ayash was not among them, the official said.

A morgue employee confirmed Tuesday that Hamas leaders came to the morgue Sunday afternoon. "They were all asking doctors whether Ayash was among the victims," said the employee, who identified himself as Abu Osama.

The Palestinian official, citing intelligence reports, said that three people were seen leaving the bomb factory minutes before the explosion, and that it was possible Ayash was among them.

Reporters at the Hamas newspaper Al Watan said Tuesday that the bodies of all

six victims had been identified and that Ayash was not among them.

The victims included Kamal Kheil, a senior commander of Hamas' military wing, Izzedine Al Qassam, three other Hamas activists and a four-year-old boy, Palestinian police said. The sixth body had not been identified, according to police.

(Earlier reports said eight people were killed. There was no immediate explanation to the conflicting figures.)

Israeli radio reports quoted the Palestinian police commander, Brigadier General Ghazi Jabali, as saying that Ayash may have been among those killed.

Palestinian government spokesman Sufian Abu Zaydeh said Tuesday that police were investigating whether Ayash died in the blast, but that no conclusions could be reached until an autopsy was performed.

Israeli army radio said Tuesday that Ayash may have been building an explosive to assassinate Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat.

Israeli newspapers said Gaza police also found lists of attacks planned in Israeli in the "bomb factory."

Ayash, nicknamed "the Engineer," has eluded Israel for more than two years. He is suspected of plotting at least four suicide bombings that have killed 56 Israelis in Afula, Hadera, Tel Aviv and Netanya since last April.

DOHUK (Agencies) — Kurdish villagers and officials on Tuesday accused Turkish troops of killing seven shepherds in northern Iraq and mutilating their bodies, including a boy who had an eye gouged out.

The report was denied by the Turkish Foreign Ministry in a statement in Ankara which blamed the atrocity on rebel separatists from the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK).

Seven bodies were found on Monday and Tuesday near Azadi village, 50 kilometres northeast of the border town of Zakho.

They were brought to Azadi hospital in the provincial capital of Dohuk where they were displayed at a press conference attended by Dohuk Governor Abdul Aziz Tahir.

Six women, all wives or relatives, told about 100 people including foreign aid workers they had been with their menfolk in the fields on Sunday when they were surrounded by 150 Turkish troops.

"They captured all of us and beat us with their weapons. Then they separated us from the men and told us to return home," one of the women sobbed.

Three of the shepherds were taken to a nearby cave and four others were herded off to an unknown location.

Half an hour later the women heard shots ringing out from the cave.

"We knew that they were

killed," one woman said.

Six of the seven bodies on display, including a father and his 13-year-old son, showed signs of mutilation such as genitals and ears sliced off, and holes gouged in arms and legs. One had had his feet cut off.

Dozens of bullets found near the bodies were also displayed.

Fighters from the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) said they were of a type fired by small sub-machine guns produced by Germany and the United States and which are used by the Turkish army.

Mr. Tahir condemned the killings as an "unforgivable act" and blamed the Turkish troops.

Asked how he knew it was the Turks and not PKK rebels, Tahir said the PKK had never carried out such acts against Kurdish brethren in Iraq.

But Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman Ferhat Ataman said: "It is impossible to take seriously these allegations that Turkish soldiers killed them and cut off their ears."

He said Turkey believed the PKK had carried out "such acts to discredit the Turkish armed forces."

Meanwhile Turkey on Tuesday sent envoys to northern Iraq's Kurdish leaders to persuade them to keep rebels out of their region.

The government moved 35,000 troops into northern Iraq on March 20.

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Palestinian journalists complain of apathy, call for international aid

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Palestinian journalists are calling for international funds to help develop the written press in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, arguing that this sector of the media has received little assistance.

The appeal comes amid increasing reports from the autonomous Gaza Strip and Jericho of strict curbs on press freedom imposed by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

The PNA has set up its own radio and television centres but these are dedicated to conveying news and opinion favouring the authority. Opponents of the autonomy accord signed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel in September 1993 have little room to express their opinion in the electronic media.

Newspapers published by the critics of the autonomy accord have often come under censorship. In several cases, bans on such newspapers were lifted after the PNA came under international pressure.

The appeal for help from the international community was made at a seminar held in

Madrid under U.N. auspices and attended by journalists from all sides of the Palestinian political spectrum, said a U.N. statement.

"Media development has received less than 0.4 per cent of funds for Palestinian development," the statement quoted the final report of the three-day seminar as saying.

The report contained "recommendations for a professional, independent and pluralistic Palestinian media," said the U.N. statement.

It called on international organisations and training institutions to create a new mechanism to coordinate their projects.

Among the projects the report called for were: establishing a journalism training centre in the Palestinian territories, speedy development by Palestinian authorities of media laws and broadcasting regulations, and international support for the private sector.

Commenting on the report, Ziad Abu Amr, professor of political science at Birzeit University and rapporteur of the seminar, said that the diversity of views included in the report reflected those within Palestinian society in general.

The seminar was sponsored

by the Department of Public Information (DPI), in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, and hosted by the Government of Spain.

Ruba Husari, a correspondent of the British Broadcasting Corporation, gave examples of obstacles faced by the Palestinian media, and highlighted the issue of safety for journalists.

Taher Shritheh, publisher of Filistin, described his experience in the Gaza Strip, and said that early on, he had run into problems such as shortage of professionals, and lack of printing and distribution facilities.

Imad Falouki, editor of Al Watan, also published in Gaza, said that was the first opposition newspaper to obtain publication permission from the Palestinian Authority. "For the first time, Palestinians are talking about Palestinian authorities," he said.

Jens Linde, president of the International Federation of Journalists, reaffirmed two recurrent themes: the need for better coordination between the donors and the recipients, and Rahmema, director of the Fund for Press Freedom Development of the

Federation of Newspaper Publishers, focused on newspapers as commercial enterprises, and on the development of management and marketing skills.

Donald H. Johnston, Director of International Media and Communications Programme, School of International and Public Affairs of Columbia University, recommended seeking fellowships for training of Palestinian journalists in United States university programmes. He said these programmes could be adapted to the specific needs of the Palestinian media.

Mustapha Tili, Chief of the Palestine and Decolonisation Section of DPI and coordinator of the seminar, said in a closing statement, that he had been impressed by the "vibrancy, enthusiasm and determined sense of purpose displayed by the participants — a diverse group who shared many common goals."

"This augured well for the future of democracy and of the Palestinian people. Concluding, he said: "By joining with you in building an independent and pluralistic media, we hope that you will serve as a shining example to all who aspire to the universal ideal of democracy."

Iraq incursion boosts Ciller at home

ANKARA (R) — Prime Minister Tansu Ciller has been stung by Western outrage over Turkey's incursion into northern Iraq but has picked up popularity at home, diverting attention from 150 per cent annual inflation.

Political analysts say the incursion may even have been launched to appease Turkish hardliners so as to make it easier to fulfil Ms. Ciller's promises of democratic reform which would make life easier for the Kurds in Turkey.

The two-week-old cross-border drive by 35,000 Turkish troops to wipe out bases of the rebel Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) has wiped aside media criticism of Ms. Ciller's government. Front-page fanfares for the soldiers have taken its place.

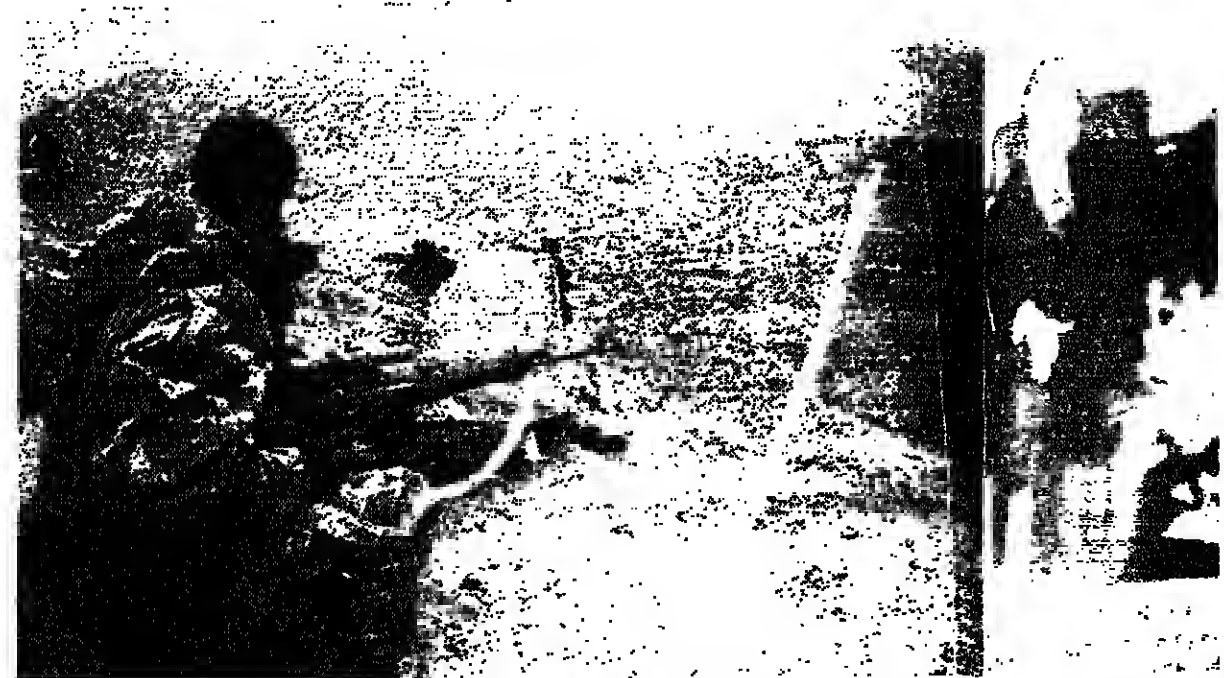
"The military has persuaded Ciller that in the short term they could help her to win popularity to last her to the elections," said political analyst Mehmet Ali Birand.

The next general election is due by November 1996 but some political analysts believe Ms. Ciller could call an early poll if support grew enough.

Ms. Ciller, a 49-year-old economics professor, came to power in 1993. But her popularity flagged as Turkey's economy faltered and 150 per cent annual inflation hit the public purse.

She came under pressure to fulfil her promise to crush the PKK's decade-long fight for a separate homeland.

The Iraq incursion has enraged many in the West by its unspecified duration, heavy handedness and questionable



A Turkish army soldier overlooks the mountainous area in the Iraqi-Turkish border region (AFP photo)

legality. Germany, France and Britain are among those demanding a quick pullout. The Germans froze military aid to Ankara.

Ankara signed a key customs union deal with the European Union (EU) on March 6, but the European Parliament still has to ratify the deal and demands Turkey take steps on human rights before it will.

Yet analysts and diplomats say the real damage to Turkey's EU ambitions may be limited if Ankara plays its cards right.

"Tansu knows full well that if they (the troops) don't stay there very long, there will be few repercussions," Mr. Birand said.

"You know these politi-

cians, they make big noises about such things and then carry on as before," said a Western diplomat.

With this in mind, Ms. Ciller seems to have risked the Western anger for a show of force to reassure the public before making changes which otherwise could be seen as surrender to the PKK.

So-called democratisation proposals have been languishing in parliament for four years.

These would change Turkey's 1982 military era constitution and lift curbs under which many activists and intellectuals have been jailed for writings and speeches on the Kurdish issue.

The increase of PKK activity in the 1990s has made

Turks more fearful of separatism. Public opinion, as reflected in the media, has turned pro-nationalist and pro-army.

"Ciller is trying to pacify the conservatives on the subject of democratisation," Dogu Ergil, a professor at Ankara University, told Reuters.

He said the operation could also be a prelude to soldiers giving way to police force in southeast Turkey, where 10 provinces have been under emergency rule since 1987.

"I believe the soldiers will be pulled out of southeast soon, and this is one last military blow on the terrorists so the public does not create merry hell," he said.

Islamist lawyer bids to restore ban on hit film

CAIRO (Agencies) — An Islamist lawyer has challenged a court ruling which overturned a ban on a hit film by director Youssef Shahin, the government daily Al Gomhuriya reported Tuesday.

The lawyer, Abdul Halim Ramadan, accused Mr. Shahin of "distorting historical facts which contradict with the Sharia" (Islamic law) in his latest film, "The Emigrant."

The film was banned on Dec. 29 after Egypt's highest Sunni Muslim authority, the Al Azhar institution, denounced it as blasphemous for personifying Joseph, who is a prophet in Islam.

A Cairo appeal court lifted the ban on Wednesday. It ruled that Mahmoud Abu Al Faid, an obscure lawyer who had won the original ruling with Al Azhar's backing, was "unqualified to bring the complaint."

But Mr. Ramadan contested the verdict by saying the film "falsifies the history of the prophets and messengers."

No date has been set for Mr. Ramadan's appeal. Mr. Shahin faces yet another legal challenge against his film on April 16 brought by a Coptic Christian lawyer.

Hosni Himi Ahadri wants the film banned because he says it "harms the Christian religion by distorting the facts described in the Bible."

Mr. Shahin said Wednesday that "The Emigrant" would be screened again, but did not set a date. Some 750,000 Egyptians saw the film before the ban.

The film, a Franco-Egyptian production, tells the epic story of Ram — a figure based on Joseph, son of Jacob, who 3,000 years ago leaves the parched land where he lived with his tribe for Egypt to study agriculture.

Islamic fundamentalists have accused Mr. Shahin of distorting the Koran by depicting the prophet Joseph as a man susceptible to female charm.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Arab League, Sweden hold talks on peace

CAIRO (AFP) — Arab League chief Esmat Abdul Meguid held talks Monday with Sweden's Middle East representative Sten Andersson on the peace process in the region, a league official said. The two men focused on "ways to promote the Arab-Israeli peace process," the official said. Mr. Andersson, former Swedish foreign minister, was to hold talks with several Egyptian foreign ministry officials on Tuesday, a Swedish diplomat here said. Mr. Andersson is to travel on to Damascus on Wednesday to meet Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharran. Swedish Foreign Minister Lena Hjelm-Wallen said in an interview with the Saudi daily Al Sharq Awsat Sunday that her country wanted to play an active role in the peace process. She said she had appointed Mr. Andersson to represent Stockholm in the region to "facilitate the reestablishment of peace."

Kuwait voices support for trouble-hit Bahrain

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah on Monday expressed backing for Bahrain which has been shaken by violence since December, the official agency KUNA reported. "Kuwait is prepared to give moral or economic support to ensure stability and peace in Bahrain," Sheikh Sabah said after a visit to Bahrain. He said he hoped "the situation will stabilise in Bahrain and sedition does not spread." The minister gave the Bahraini emir, Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa, a message from Kuwait's Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the agency said.

Blair fires 2 lawmakers over Turkish trip

LONDON (AP) — Opposition leader Tony Blair, tightening his grip on his once ill-disciplined Labour Party, on Monday fired two legislators from his foreign affairs team for making an unauthorised trip to Turkey and northern Iraq. Ann Clwyd, 58, and Jim Cousins, 51, who both spoke for the party in the House of Commons, missed several important votes during the week-long trip and ignored orders to return. Mr. Blair's office said, which opinion polls indicate will form the next British government.

Turkish police free Norwegian journalist

OSLO (R) — A Norwegian journalist and a German human rights activist were released on Monday after being detained by Turkish military police for about 24 hours. They were accompanied by two Kurds whose fate was unclear. Gunnar Hybertsen, a reporter with Norwegian national radio NRK, was travelling with Heidi Lankisch and two Kurds when they were stopped at a military checkpoint not far from the city of Diyarbakir in the southeast Turkey. "We were never given a proper explanation why we could not travel any further," Mr. Hybertsen, 46, told NRK radio. He said they had been moved twice to different military camps. He said one of the young Kurds had apparently been grossly maltreated while in Turkish police custody and his arm seemed to be broken. "We saw them (the Kurds) being led out when we were moved the second time. They were held at gunpoint, blindfolded and holding their hands behind their necks," Mr. Hybertsen said. He last saw the Kurds in Diyarbakir. "I think they must be in a terrible state if they are still alive," he said.

Immigrant donates organs, but cannot be buried

TEL AVIV (AP) — A 14-year-old immigrant from the former Soviet Union died of cancer two days ago and donated organs to up to five Israelis but Israel cannot find a cemetery willing to bury his body, news reports said.

Israel Television said that Israel's ultra-orthodox Jewish society refused to inter Giorgi Vipotky, whose father is Jewish and mother Christian, in a Jewish cemetery.

According to orthodox Jewish practice, Judaism is passed maternally and Vipotky's father is not considered Jewish.

But Christian cemeteries also refused to bury Vipotky and his body has been in a hospital morgue since Saturday, the report said.

Israel Television said Vipotky's parents agreed after he died to donate his lungs, kidneys and other organs to up to five recipients.

Religious Affairs Minister Shimon Shetret reportedly said that the youth will be

buried at a secular cemetery at Kibbutz Einav. It was not clear when such a burial could take place.

Israel is presently establishing a non-denominational cemetery, easing difficulties faced by those who consider themselves Jews but are not accepted as such by the orthodox establishment that controls marriage, divorce and burial.

In another development, after an Israeli tried to auction off what he promoted as soap made by Nazis from human fat, the Yad Vashem memorial urged Holocaust survivors to hand over any remaining World War II articles for safekeeping Monday.

Moshe Yehalom, the son of a Holocaust survivor, told Israel Radio that financial problems forced him to put on sale the grey-brown soap he claimed the Nazis made from Jewish victims.

Yad Vashem refutes the widespread claims that the Nazis made such soap, but

the radio report drew immediate response.

Lawmaker Dov Shilansky, a Holocaust survivor, called Mr. Yehalom's intentions "an abomination, a shame, a desecration of the holy."

The soap was to be sold at an auction later this month along with various other Holocaust-related items. The auction apparently went largely unnoticed until the radio report about Mr. Yehalom.

Mr. Shilansky said that if the auction took place, survivors would stand outside and demonstrate. "We will stand in silence... a silence that screams to the heavens," Mr. Shilansky said.

Yad Vashem director of Avner Shalev vowed in a statement to try to stop the auction and "ensure that all such objects arrive at Yad Vashem, their natural resting place."

Mr. Shalev urged Holocaust survivors and their

families to hand any objects from Nazi Germany and concentration camps to Yad Vashem only.

Auctioneer Moshe Morad said he has sold Holocaust objects in the past. He told Israel Television that the yellow stars the Nazis forced Jews to wear are sold for up to \$200.

Israel Radio said the soap, which reportedly was taken out of the catalogue Monday at the request of Israel's chief rabbin, was listed at the starting price of \$300.

Mr. Yehalom, whose father was a survivor of the Buchenwald camp, said he was selling the soap because he had no other means of income.

"I saw that there was a great demand around the world," he told the radio. He did not give other details.

The item news agency said Mr. Yehalom also contributed other items to the planned auction.

U.S. scientists hope to prove pharaoh's heritage

LONDON (R) — U.S. scientists extracting 3,500-year-old DNA from ancient Egyptian mummies think they can reconstruct Tutankhamun's family tree, a British television programme said on Sunday.

The Channel Four documentary followed geneticist Scott Woodward and a team of experts from Brigham Young University in Utah as they dug up and analysed the mummies, well-preserved by the dry Egyptian desert sands.

They said they hoped to discover who King Tut's parents were and who his chief wife was.

"This is information that has been locked away from hundreds of generations now coming to light in these ancient people from Egypt,"

Mr. Woodward told Channel Four.

He said he already had genetic evidence of what historians have always believed — that the pharaohs married their own brothers and sisters to keep the blood "pure."

"From the samples that we have so far, which cover eight generations of the 18th dynasty, we see a very narrow gene pool — no evidence of marriage from outside the family by commoners," he said.

Mr. Woodward, who was one of the first scientists to find DNA in a dinosaur bone, said experts were still a long way off from cloning an ancient animal, as depicted in the science fiction hit film "Jurassic Park".

"Jurassic Park is very much

still fiction," he said. "What we are able to do maybe in pharaonic park is take very small bits of genetic information from an ancient pharaoh that lived two to three thousand years ago and reconstruct that and find out a lot about that individual."

Mr. Woodward quickly added that it would not be possible to clone a pharaoh and bring him back to life. "No, we can't do that — that's not possible right now," he said.

"But we can tell a lot... about that individual by the little bits and pieces that we can reconstruct from these 3,500-year-old pieces of DNA."

UNESCO demand A team of U.N. experts want a nearly-completed

motorway to be moved so it avoids ploughing across the site of the Giza pyramids near Cairo, an antiquities official said Tuesday.

"The committee (of experts) believes it is impossible for the motorway to cross the pyramids site, after having visited the area in the last two days," said Abdul Halim Nureddin, head of the Egyptian Antiquities Council.

The experts began a visit to Giza on Sunday.

Work on the new ring road encircling Cairo was suspended in November after the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) protested that it would cross part of the pyramids site.

Tombs and artifacts have been discovered just a few metres from the building site

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 Les Ratons Laveurs
17:30 Taranta
19:00 News in French
19:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
19:45 E=mc²
20:30 The Marvellous Machine
21:10 Berlin Break
22:00 News in English
22:30 Prism
22:40 Snowy River
23:10 Keeping Up Appearance

PRAYER TIMES

04:55 Fajr
06:15 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:30 Dhuhr
16:12 Asr
19:01 Maghreb
20:20 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Teresian Church Tel. 622466
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

AMMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Tel. 773131

AMMAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Amman International Church Tel. 625226

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 664195

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 661912

Tel. 812195

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures are expected to rise slightly with clouds appearing at low altitudes and winds north-westerly moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp. 2/16

Agaba 8/23

Deserts 2/18

Jordan Valley 7/22

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 13 Agaba 20, Humidity readings: Amman 50 per cent, Agaba 37 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Khalid Kloub 816715

Dr. Riaz Abu Zinah 894285

Dr. Issam Al Asmar 890504

Dr. Youssef Rashid 890301

Firas pharmacy 661912

Ferdous pharmacy 778336

Al Asena pharmacy 637055

Nairoukh pharmacy 623672

Al Salim pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 646945

Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

Nairoukh pharmacy 623672

Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Ali Al Shoghril 246140

Al Quds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Khalil Abu Hussein 985000

Khalil pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341

AMMAN:

Husseini Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalil Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 67101

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 63021

Hotel Complaints 668000

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality Complaints 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2



MEETING AT CBJ: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday meets with Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Said Nabulsi at the bank's headquarters. The Regent and the CBJ chief discussed financial and banking-related issues. Prince Hassan expressed satisfaction with the bank's performance and its efforts to improve the banking and financial situation and ensure stability of the Jordanian dinar.

Prince Ra'd urges empowerment of disabled

AMMAN (Petra) — Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd in Zaid Tuesday called on municipalities and communities to empower the disabled to help themselves, and to encourage them towards self-reliance rather than relying entirely on official and voluntary institutions.

Addressing the opening session of a 10-day training course on community-based rehabilitation, organised by the Ministry of Social Development in cooperation with the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Prince Ra'd said Jordan is willing to learn from other experiences and to utilise them to benefit the Jordanian citizens.

He thanked the ILO for its role in the field of community rehabilitation.

The ILO regional advisor, Youssef Qariouti, praised Jordan's efforts in physical rehabilitation of the handicapped and pledged his organisation's technical support to the Kingdom.

During the ten-day course, participants will discuss research and working papers on vocational rehabilitation, current services for the handicapped in Jordan, Jordan's experience in the field of community rehabilitation, integration of the handicapped in the United Nations Relief and Works Agency's (UNRWA) experience in the field of community-based rehabilitation, the role of local communities in developing skills of the handicapped, and role of the societies for the handicapped in supporting community-based rehabilitation programmes.

Taking part in the course are experts and lecturers from Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Yemen, Palestine and Britain.

Text of Agreement on Tourism

Following is the text of the Agreement on Tourism between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the State of Israel.

The government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the government of the State of Israel (hereinafter referred to as "the parties") pursuant to and in the spirit of the Treaty of Peace signed between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the State of Israel on 26 October 1994, (hereinafter referred to as "the Treaty of Peace"), particularly Article therein:

Desiring to broaden further the friendly relations between their countries on the basis of equality, and for their mutual benefit, and recognising the importance of tourism, have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The parties shall, within the framework of their laws, regulations and prerogatives, adopt adequate measures to note and encourage the development of tourism between the two countries and intensify the cooperation between their tourism organisations, in both the public and private sectors, including air carriers.

Article 2

The parties shall examine the ways of facilitating the exchange of information on matters concerning tourism and travel in the two countries, including inter-planned tourism events.

Article 3

The parties agree to facilitate the exchange of information on matters concerning tourism and travel in the two countries, including inter-planned tourism events.

Article 4

The parties agree to strengthen technical cooperation in the field of professional training.

Article 5

The parties shall encourage tourism from third countries in a spirit of mutual cooperation in the field of marketing and promotional activities, efforts to bring about extended stay of tourists, or to ensure that both shall benefit from this.

Article 6

The parties shall make efforts, as appropriate, to further develop their cooperation in international and regional bodies in the field of tourism, and shall exchange information concerning their achievements in this field.

Article 7

A joint commission shall be set up and assigned with the task of studying, agreeing on and following up on measures capable of contributing to the attainment of the above objectives.

Article 8

The joint commission shall consist of two representatives designated by the Ministry of Tourism of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and of two representatives designated by the Ministry of Tourism of the State of Israel, thus constituting national delegations (hereinafter referred to as "national delegations"). Each national delegation may be accompanied by their experts, as necessary.

Recognising that governments primarily serve as catalysts for travel and tourism, while private organisations are primarily the providers of goods and services to travellers and tourists, both parties agree to include private sector representatives from the two countries in all the working groups and committees stemming from this agreement.

Article 9

The Joint commission shall meet once a year. The joint commission may hold extraordinary meetings if it is deemed necessary, and with the agreement of the heads of the national delegations.

The head of the national delegation of the host country shall preside the meeting.

The national delegation acting as host, shall be responsible for the work and expenses of the meeting's secretariat.

Article 10

The working language of the joint commission shall be English.

Japan donates surveying equipment to Salt

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government of Japan is donating surveying and urban planning equipment, including drafters, computers, a total station and technical books, amounting to \$17,500 to the Salt Municipality, a Japanese embassy statement said.

A presentation ceremony held at Salt city equipment was handed over to Eid Qatameh, Balqa's governor and chairman of the Municipal Committee, by Yuji Ikeda, ambassador of Japan. It is expected that the capabilities of Salt in its urban planning, landscaping construction and management will be further enhanced with the utilisation of the equipment.

Japan considers debt relief for Jordan — envoy

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Japan, which holds about one-third of Jordan's foreign debts, is considering various ideas to offer debt relief to the Kingdom, Japanese Ambassador Yuji Ikeda said Tuesday.

It was the first comment by a senior Japanese official on Jordan's request for debt relief. As a policy, Tokyo does not offer debt cancellation and, if it does, then it also suspends all development loans to the concerned debtor.

"We are considering several ideas within the framework of our policies on the possibility of extending debt relief to Jordan," Mr. Ikeda told the Jordan Times.

The ambassador emphasised that "there is nothing concrete yet" and that Tokyo was adopting a "gradual approach" to the issue.

As such, "at this stage, the Japanese government cannot provide any specific response" to Jordan's request, said the ambassador.

Jordan, whose foreign debts stand at around \$5.5 billion, owes Japan about \$1.8 billion, most of it in development loans offered at concessional rates.

Japanese-Jordanian relations and Tokyo's commitment to extending support for the Kingdom were the central theme in a speech Ambassador Ikeda made at an event Monday night marking the 20th anniversary of the Jordan-Japan Friendship Association.

The event was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath.

Mr. Ikeda paid tribute to the efforts of the friendship association and its counterpart in Tokyo in advancing Japanese-Jordanian relations and said: "...suffice to say that they very presence of H.R.H. Crown Prince Hassan is the best indication of how successful our mutual relations have been."

"Our two countries have achieved these distinguished relations in spite of the differences in culture, religion and tradition and the lack of geographical proximity," he said.

"This achievement is something we should be proud of, and we should endeavour to maintain and develop it."

Reiterating Japan's "wholehearted support of Jordan's role in achieving a



Yuji Ikeda

just, lasting and comprehensive peace," Ambassador Ikeda said he believed that his country could help consolidate peace.

Noting that Japan has consistently assumed a major role to the multilateral phase of the peace process, he said that Tokyo, which is seeking higher involvement in international affairs, was ready to play a "more active political role in the Middle East peace process."

Japan, which started giving grant aid to Jordan in 1993 after the Kingdom qualified for it following a decline in its

per capita income, has provided \$40 million in assistance to Amman since then. It is also offering a \$131 million loan to finance an expansion project at the Aqaba thermal power station.

Further aid on a project-to-project basis is being considered. A Japanese delegation held talks here last month and said afterwards that Tokyo was awaiting specific Jordanian requests.

"As we notice no donor countries could afford to offer a grant aid for a large-scale project, it is hoped that the new inflow of foreign currencies provided by the Japanese government will help Jordan carry out the infrastructure projects which are essential to the economic development of Jordan," said the ambassador.

"I am making my best efforts so that the Japanese authorities be aware of the urgent need the Jordanian government is facing to extending benefits of peace within the country," he told the gathering organised by the friendship association.

"I am hoping that the Japanese authorities will do their best to assist the government of Jordan in coping with projects related to the peace

process and the overburdening debt problem by the combination of the various policy measures available to them," he said.

The ambassador noted that the recent visit to Jordan by the crown prince and princess of Japan and the forthcoming visit of Crown Prince Hassan to Tokyo in connection with a Jordan Week there in May were part of efforts to further strengthen Jordanian-Japanese relations.

"As our bilateral relationship is entering a mature state in which the two countries are moving away from a predominantly economy-oriented stage to a stage of political dialogue pursuing common goals of the regional and global management, the visit by His Royal Highness to Japan and the ensuing meetings between the policymakers of the two countries are even more important," Ambassador Ikeda said.

Mr. Ikeda also announced that a symposium will be held in Japan on the fringes of Jordan Week, which will be wholly financed by the Japanese government and private sector.

The symposium will discuss Jordanian-Japanese relations and the role of both countries in the peace process, he said.

Christopher presses Congress on U.S. commitment to write-off Kingdom's debts

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has strongly reaffirmed the need for congressmen to assist Jordan and make good its commitment to write off the Kingdom's debts. Any failure to do that, he said, will reflect badly on the international image of the United States and its willingness to live up to its pledges.

Mr. Christopher, testifying before the House of Representatives International Relations Committee Tuesday, expressed concern over the House's move to slash the administration's draft budget for fiscal 1996.

In the ensuing debate, congressmen sought to make the point that while they supported the proposed debt relief for Jordan — presented by the administration in the form of a supplemental bill already approved by the Senate — they found that the move

would lead to an across-the-board 20 per cent cut in the foreign aid programme.

"Many of us support Jordan's decision to make peace with Israel, and we want to do what we can to help King Hussein and his country's economy, and many of us support relief for Jordan," said Representative Benjamin Gilman (Republican, New York), head of the International Relations Committee.

"The problem is, though, that the \$275 million that you need for Jordan will also take up \$275 million in scarce outlays," Mr. Gilman said, according to a transcript of the debate made available to the Jordan Times by the United States Information Agency (USIA).

"If this is to fall into our fiscal '96 spending, we can certainly cut over \$200 million in budget authority to make room for this," said the congressman, "but we would be hard-pressed to find over \$200 million in outlays."

Mr. Gilman said the International Relations Committee was told by the House Appropriations Committee, which had actually slashed the \$275 million to request to \$50 million, that Congress may have to make a 20 per cent cut in the foreign aid programme "on top of the cuts we plan to pay for this."

Mr. Christopher replied: "I very strongly support the request for Jordan debt relief, and I hope that the conferees will accept the approach adopted by the Senate and fund the Jordan debt relief in connection with the Defense Department supplemental. I think that's the right way to address the problem."

The secretary of state conceded that allocating funds for Jordan debt relief was "certainly going to cause considerable pain with respect to our other programmes."

But, he said, "we have a very heavy commitment" to Jordan "to offer the kind of debt relief that the president promised and that the congress approved last year."

"In the Middle East, it is

very important that we live up to that commitment," said Mr. Christopher. "It is really a test of our willingness to participate, and if you will, a test of our willingness to engage."

"If we fail to go forward with this, I think it will be a signal of a retreat by the United States and of a failure to keep our commitments around the world," the secretary of state told the committee.

Replying to further questions, Mr. Christopher said that although the Clinton administration had pledged to write off Jordan's official debts to the U.S. of around \$700 million in two tranches after writing off nearly \$200 million of the amount in 1994, it wanted to cancel all the rest in one tranche because of the rapid advance in the Israeli-Jordanian peace talks that culminated in a peace treaty in October 1994.

"We considered the fact that there should be more than one tranche because we wanted to make sure Jordan went through its commitments to peace in

the region," the secretary said. "Now, Jordan has fortunately moved more rapidly than anybody contemplated at that time. They've gone forward. They've entered into a peace agreement with Israel."

"So they've taken the steps we expected them to take."

"There really still are — at least in the eyes of the Jordanians — three tranches, because there would be funds from 1995 and then funds from the 1996 budget, which I think is consistent with what the Jordanians expected," he said. "And one thing I want to very strongly urge is the importance of prompt relief for Jordan. Their economy is struggling in this period, with hundreds of thousands of refugees from Iraq on their soil. So, this is important to do and it's important to do very promptly. Mr. Chairman, I think it's very consistent with matching what they've done with action by the United States."

Police arrest 2 suspects in stabbing of exchanger

By Rana Hussein

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Zarqa police Monday apprehended two suspects in connection with the stabbing of a money exchanger in Zarqa, police said.

According to a police official, the authorities are questioning several individuals who are suspected in the attack, that occurred on Sunday.

The victim, Fouad Amad, 55, a money exchanger was entering his home in Zarqa when he was attacked and stabbed by an unidentified assailant, a close relative of the victim told the Jordan Times Tuesday.

According to the relative, the victim was carrying no money with him at the time of the incident.

The relative added that the victim's mother was killed 15 years ago in their home after an assailant broke into their house in a burglary attempt.

Mr. Amad was rushed to Qaser Sheibh Hospital in Irbid after being stabbed in the stomach. An official at the hospital told the Jordan Times that Mr. Amad, who is in the intensive care unit (ICU) was listed in fair condition.

As of Tuesday evening police said they were still questioning the suspects.

Meanwhile, in Irbid, police were searching for a man who on Monday reportedly defrauded a 58-year-old man of JD 275 from Mashareh town, police reports said.

According to the report, the victim, Shafi Saleh, told police that a man came to his house claiming that he was a social security employee and wanted to help him obtain JD 5,000 to repair his home.

The man asked Mr. Saleh to pay him JD 275 for procedural fees. Mr. Saleh complied, but the man never returned, the report said.

Police said they have a good description of the suspect and were investigating the incident.

Women municipal committee members end workshop

By Mohammad Mashariqa

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN (Petra) — Women members of the rural and municipal committees Tuesday voiced their deep appreciation to Her Royal Highness Princess Basma for her constant efforts in upgrading the status of women in the country.

In speeches delivered at the end of a two-day municipal guidelines workshop Monday in Irbid, which was organised under the directives of Princess Basma, women members of municipal committees expressed their appreciation and acknowledgement of Princess Basma's contributions and dedication to the causes of women.

In November of last year, the Council of Ministers approved the appointment of women to the government committees which are operating municipality affairs until the Sept. 1995 municipal elections in response to a request by Princess Basma who chairs the National Committee for Women.

2 blocs, 10 independents in JWA poll

By Mohammad Mashariqa

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Two candidates blocs of Jordanian writers, poets and researchers will be running for the Friday elections of the Jordanian Writers Association's (JWA) Administrative Committee, in addition to 10 independent candidates.

The two blocs are the United Democratic Cultural Front, headed by novelist Ibrahim Abi, the second, "the opposition group list," is headed by Salem Nahas, who is very close to the Democratic Front of the Liberation of Palestine, headed by Nayef Hawatmeh, and a member of the politburo of the Jordan People's Democratic Party.

The formation of the united bloc followed intensive consultation among Jordanian writers running for the JWA Administrative Committee.

The bloc includes Salah Jarrar, director of the University of Jordan Library, Suleiman Azra'i, director of the Irbid Department of Culture, Basel Rafaiiah, Al Ra'i Arabic daily cultural pages editor, Mohammad Amri, the Phoenix Art Gallery's cultural director, Ramadan Rawashdeh, Hazem Mubaiden, Fayed Mahmoud, Rawda Hudhud, Mustafa Saleh

A government statement issued at the time said 30 women were appointed to serve on the committees in their respective regions, adding that women members should direct their attention to women's affairs.

Director of the Information and Communication Department of the National Committee for Women Lina Qardan said this workshop, the first of its kind in the north, will also be held in all governorates.

dates will run for the administrative committee.

However, for the president's post, two independent candidates, Issa Jarrah, a researcher and Aisha Al Razem, a poet are competing.

Saud Kheilat of the democratic trend is also running for the president's post.

The majority of candidates of both trends, however, reject cultural normalisation with Israel.

The united bloc, headed by Mr. Abi, calls for respecting opinions and views of other intellectuals on this "thorny issue."

They do not want the JWA to act as "inspection courts" issuing orders for separation, dismissal and exposing JWA members who meet with Israeli writers, according to a member of the list.

On the other hand, Mr. Nahas' bloc calls for dismissing those accepting normalisation, including those writers who took part in official meetings with Israeli counterparts, including Information Minister Khalid Karaki, Minister of Culture Samir Habashneh, Suleiman Azra'i, Mohammad Naji Amareh, Ministry of Culture secretary general, and Mahmud Shukair, director of the Palestinian Department of Culture.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- FILM**
- ★ Film entitled "Lord of the Flies" at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.
- SECOND ARAB DRAMA FESTIVAL**
- ★ Two plays entitled "Every Day" and "How We Walk" respectively at 7:00 and 8:30 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- CONCERT**
- ★ Pop festival (participating bands: Dead Sea Fishing Club, Faculty X, Los Morenos, Black Iris, Vinyl, Haunted Cottage and Flyde) at Al Hussein Sports City, Palace of Culture on Thursday at 7:30 p.m.
- EXHIBITIONS**
- ★ Exhibition of art by William Golding at the British Council.
 - ★ Exhibition of Egyptian products at Amman International Exhibition, Marj Al Hamam (Tel. 688141).

Japan police raid 3 more facilities of doomsday sect

TOKYO (AFP) — Police carried out fresh raids on Aum Supreme Truth Tuesday but apparently failed to turn up any solid evidence directly linking the doomsday cult to the nerve-gas massacre on the Tokyo subway.

Amid a media circus, police spread their two-week-old search to three more Aum facilities, including an alleged radio assembly plant, to locate any signs of sarin, the Nazi-invented nerve gas used in the subway atrocity on March 20.

A metropolitan police spokesman here refused, as

usual, to comment on what has been found. But press reports said the raids had come too late, as residents around the facilities had seen things moved out earlier.

At Aum's main commune at the foot of Mount Fuji, police have uncovered 40 kinds of chemicals — including those that can be used to make sarin — and substances suggesting the sect had experimented in germ warfare, uranium enrichment and laser technology.

Aum, which was founded by near-blind yoga master Shoko Asahara in 1987 with a

prophecy that the last world war will break out in 1997, continued to deny its involvement in the subway attack.

The sect, which claims some 10,000 members at home and a huge following in Russia, has also declared it had nothing to do with Thursday's shooting of national Police Chief Takaji Kumimatsu, who headed the sarin probe.

"The suspicions are a total frame-up," Aum said in a statement.

The sect's chief publicist, Fumihiko Joyu, told a news conference Monday the terrorist attacks might have been masterminded by Japan's biggest religious organisation, the Buddhist Soka Gakkai, to frame up Aum.

In the latest raids, 150 police searched a two-storey plant some 25 kilometres southwest of the sprawling commune in the village of Kamikishi where a sophisticated chemical laboratory was found concealed behind an altar in a sanctuary.

Police, clad in military camouflage, found a large air purifier and tanks at the factory, in the town of Tomizawa, which was registered with local authorities as a plant for assembling electrical equipment such as radios, reports said.

Eight cardboard boxes with signs reading "videotapes" were seen brought out by investigators in the raid which lasted only three hours at the plant, which local residents said emitted nauseous odors last year.

About 100 police, some of them carrying canisters as gas sensors, also pounced on a newly built four-storey building in the resort town of Naganohara, north of Tokyo.

But one investigator was quoted as saying, "there seems to be no toxic substance."

On the southern main island of Kyushu, some 500 police raided a large commune in the village of Nami-no on charges that sect members confined and assaulted a former follower.

They confiscated 148 items, including a 10-kilogramme (22-pound) can of peptone, a bag containing 25 kilograms (55 pounds) of potassium phosphate and 13 used syringes, reports said.

Peptone is an organic substance that can be used to cultivate bacteria. Police have already seized peptone at Aum facilities at the Mount Fuji commune.

The newspaper Yomiuri reported that Aum had amassed assets worth at least 2.5 billion yen (\$29 million), including 1.7 billion yen worth of real estate at 16 locations across Japan.

The sect collects funds from its followers by asking members to provide cash donations and turn over all personal assets to the sect in order to gain "priesthood," the daily said.

Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's government decided Tuesday to organise a ministerial conference to discuss measures to prevent future nerve-gas attacks, government officials said.

Other cabinet ministers also suggested the need to review a law that gives religious organisations tax breaks and preferential treatment.

Jiji Press reported that the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations are likely to discuss ways of preventing terrorist attacks, including poisonous gas, at their June 15-17 summit in Halifax, Canada.



Aum members are blocked by police during an early morning raid on their facilities in Tomizawa (AFP photo)

Romanian plane lands at Warsaw Airport after bomb warning

WARSAW (R) — A Romanian airliner made an emergency landing at Warsaw airport Tuesday after the control tower received a warning there was a bomb on board, an airport official said.

Andrzej Leciak of Okęcie Airport Flight Control told Reuters the Tarom Airlines twin-engine plane on a flight from Bucharest to Copenhagen landed just after noon local time, and was being searched.

The spokesman said nobody had been hurt in the incident, but all passengers on board the BAC 1-11 had been evacuated.

"This type of plane has about 120 seats but we don't yet know how many passengers were on board," Mr. Leciak said.

It was the second bomb scare aboard a Romanian airliner in two days, and follows the crash of another Tarom plane in Bucharest Friday which killed all 60 aboard.

Investigators are looking into the possibility that the crash may have been caused by a bomb on board. One witness reported seeing an explosion shortly before it came down.

The co-pilot of the doomed Romanian airliner is reported to have shouted "what the hell is going on in the back" before the plane fell to earth last Friday, killing all 60 people on board.

Air accident investigators say they are looking closely at the theory that an explosion on board could have brought the plane down, particularly after two anonymous claims

of responsibility. Romania's Liberia did not make clear whether the co-pilot's comment implied an explosion or a severe mechanical problem with the aircraft.

Tarom Captain Cristian Joita, a member of the multinational team investigating the crash, said he did not know how Romania's Liberia had heard excerpts from the flight record.

"We have started only now to decode the voice tape. This process might take some four hours to complete," Joita said. "I don't know where the paper got it from."

Belgium's ambassador to Bucharest told Reuters Tuesday he remained convinced the crash, in which 32 Belgian citizens including two of his staff died, was an accident.

India wary of potential China threat

NEW DELHI (R) — India's recently warming ties with China have not blinded it to the potential threat from Beijing's military pursuits, the Indian Defence Ministry said in its annual report Tuesday.

It said a looming crisis over the disputed Spratly Islands in the South China Sea had raised concerns following U.S. military withdrawal from the region.

India and China fought a brief border war in 1962, freezing relations between the Asian giants until 1988, when then Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi visited Beijing.

"The security environment in Asia, though much improved in recent years, still has the potential for turbulence," the 1994-95 Defence Ministry Review said.

"Sudden developments and unforeseen consequences can upset this stability and result in adverse consequences to our neighbourhood," it said.

India has sought the membership of the recently formed ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), saying it was an effective platform to defuse flashpoints in the region.

"The formation of the ARF is a notable attempt at constituting a security structure in the Asia-Pacific region. There are compelling reasons for this,"

the report said. "With conflicting claims over the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea, anxiety over U.S. withdrawal from the region, and awareness of Chinese and Japanese military capabilities, there are concerns among member countries. This forum has the potential to play an important role in the future."

India and China signed a ground-breaking agreement involving substantial troop reduction in September 1994 to ease tensions along their Himalayan frontiers.

"Additional confidence building measures are being discussed with a view to removing tensions," the Defence Ministry said.

It said despite improved relations with Beijing, India was closely watching China's military activities in neighbouring Burma.

"Beijing is engaged in building strategic road links from its border towns to railheads and sea ports of Myanmar (Burma). It is helping to develop these ports."

"China has also been rapidly modernising its armed forces and equipping them with sophisticated aircraft, air defence weapons and enhancing its blue water capabilities. China also continues to carry out nuclear tests."

India was also concerned at the sale of M-11 Chinese

missiles "and allied technology" to New Delhi's archfoe Pakistan.

India and Pakistan are nuclear threshold states, but officially maintain that their intentions are peaceful.

India refuses to sign a U.S.-backed regional nuclear pact with Pakistan, saying such an arrangement would leave it vulnerable to Chinese military arsenal.

Indian defence analysts said India had signed a recent deal with Russia for a squadron of 13 to 15 MiG-29 fighter planes, mainly to keep the air force prepared against any future conflict with China.

India's main opposition party affirmed Monday it would build nuclear weapons if it were voted into power.

An executive meeting of the Bharatiya Janata Party also adopted a resolution urging Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao to resist U.S. pressure to stop production of fissile material, the main fuel for nuclear bombs, United News of India said.

"There cannot be any compromise at any cost on India's security," Atal Behari Vajpayee, the opposition leader in parliament, was quoted as telling reporters in the western city of Panaji.

The resolution coincided with talks in New Delhi by Peter Tarnoff, the U.S. undersecretary of state for political affairs.

Phil Collins gets Swiss residency

BERN, Switzerland (AFP) — British rock star Phil Collins has been allowed to move to a chic village on Lake Geneva, officials said here Monday. The federal Justice and Police Department said it had granted Collins a "B" residency permit allowing him to live in Hermance for a year. The permit may be renewed by the Geneva canton. Collins was seen several times in Hermance at the start of the year with his Swiss-born girlfriend.

China's army of bachelors grows at alarming rate

BEIJING (R) — There are 28 single men between the ages of 25 and 49 for each single woman of like age in rural China, a China-funded Hong Kong newspaper said Tuesday. Males of all ages outnumber females by 30 million in the countryside. Wen Wei Po said. The newspaper said it was quoting 1994 China-wide census figures and 1993 random surveys in some provinces and cities. The ratio of newborn boys to girls in rural areas is 114 to 100, or 3.6 million more boys than girls born every year, the newspaper said. Demographers say the problem stems from China's strict birth-control policies, which limit most families to one child. Because families traditionally want a son to carry on the family name, many people are taking advantage of modern scanning techniques to identify and abort female foetuses so they can try again to have a boy. China will have 50 million more males than females by 2000 if the trend continues, the newspaper said, adding that China's "army of bachelors" is very worrisome.

Mayor slaps ban on miniskirts, shorts for women

BOGOTA (AFP) — It's the tropics, cover up. That's what the mayor of a Colombian town is telling local women: he's banned them from wearing miniskirts, shorts, stretch trousers and other potentially revealing clothing into town buildings and facilities. Victor Ramirez, the mayor of Morroa in the country's northwest province of Cesar, has drawn the wrath of women who complain the policy impinges on their freedom to dress as they please in a region known for its sweltering temperatures. Some of them have suggested that Mr. Ramirez be forced to wear a coat and tie every day, until he feels the heat.

Naughty British aristocrat arrested — again

LONDON (R) — The Marquess of Blandford, a wayward British aristocrat, was arrested Sunday on charges of forging prescriptions, theft and making off from a taxi without paying, police said. Blandford, 39, was being held in custody overnight, a police spokesman said. He was expected to appear before magistrates Monday. The marquess, known to his friends as Jamie, frequently makes British headlines for his misdemeanours and subsequent jail terms. He is still under probation after admitting stealing a cheque book from a friend in June. He was also ordered to undergo treatment for drug addiction. Blandford is alleged to have made out two false prescriptions at a chemist's in London last month. He is also charged with the theft of three drugs from a chemist's shop in London and with making off from a taxi without paying on the same date. In July Blandford's father the Duke of Marlborough, one of Britain's richest aristocrats, won court permission to prevent his son from inheriting his £10 million (\$16 million) country estate.

Father sued by five-year-old abandoned son

HONG KONG (AFP) — A five-year-old boy in mainland China who was abandoned by his father after being found to be suffering from blood cancer, is claiming medical expenses from his parent now living in Hong Kong, it was reported Tuesday. Shi Xiaode has filed a suit in Xian, capital of Shaanxi province, against his father, identified only as Shi, seeking medical expenses amounting to 400,000 yuan (\$47,620), the Hong Kong branch of China News Service said.

At least 100 killed in Filipino rebel raid

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (AP) — About 200 heavily armed men swooped down on a southern Philippine town to rob banks and stores, and the fighting killed at least 100 people, the military and a radio station reported.

In Manila, President Fidel Ramos, furious over the attack, issued a "shoot-to-kill" order against members of the Muslim extremist group Abu Sayyaf, believed to be responsible, the presidential press office said.

Arriving in boats and a bus for the daylight attack, the gunmen robbed four of the town's seven banks, radio reports said.

They also ransacked at least one department store and set many buildings on fire to confuse police and soldiers, said Maj. Fredesvinde Covarrubias, spokesman of the military's southern command.

He said that in addition to 100 people killed, another 30

were wounded as the attack turned the town of Ipi into a virtual battlefield. The military sent troops by helicopter to the town of 50,000 people, about 760 kilometres (480 miles) south of Manila, he added.

Radio reports said that in late afternoon, thick smoke from burning buildings was blanketing the town. Among those killed were the town police chief, the commander of the 10th Infantry Battalion stationed in Ipi and a local bank manager, Maj. Covarrubias said.

In Manila, Defence Secretary Renato De Villa said Mr. Ramos ordered "immediate punitive action" against the attackers and declared a state of emergency in the town. Mr. Ramos also directed the release of 15 million pesos (\$577,000) in immediate aid.

Mr. De Villa said it was the first time an entire town was attacked by Muslim insurgents since the 1974 siege of

Jolo City, farther to the south. Interior Secretary Rafael Alunan said a flag of the extremist group was recovered in Ipi.

Edwin Angeles, a former Abu Sayyaf officer who surrendered to authorities recently, said the attack was in retaliation for the arrest of six alleged Arab Muslim extremists in a Manila suburb.

"There are many more such attacks that will follow and this is what the government should guard against," Mr. Angeles said in an interview with Manila television ABS-CBN.

Mr. De Villa, however, said authorities have no immediate information linking the arrest to the attack.

Some of the attackers were already in position when the signal was given for them to raid the banks simultaneously at around 12:45 p.m. (0445 GMT). Maj. Covarrubias said.

Gunman kills 5, himself at Texas plant

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (R) — A man who may have been a former employee opened fire at an industrial inspection company here, killing five people before shooting himself, police said.

Corpus Christi Police Captain Perfecto Rodriguez said the man walked into the offices of the Walter Rossler Co. in this south Texas city about 3:30 p.m. and opened fire with two automatic pistols.

"He shot a total of five people and as police arrived, he ran behind a warehouse where he shot himself in the head," Capt. Rodriguez said. "He was taken to the hospital where he died."

The officer could not confirm broadcast reports that five other people were wounded in the attack.

The identity of the gunman was not immediately known. It was the second tragedy to hit this south Texas city in four days. Mexican-American music star Selena was shot to death last Friday at a motel here, allegedly by a woman who had been an employee of the singer and the founder of her fan club.

Mourners laid hundreds of white roses on Selena's casket Monday, bidding farewell to the Tejano music queen whose slaying shocked Mexican-American music lovers.

Family members and her band members hugged each other underneath a small pavilion over the 23-year-old singer's grave.

"We've had our heart

taken out of us. Not just her family and her fans, but all of us who worked with her," said Jimmy A. Gonzalez, a marketer for her recording company.

Selena Quintanilla Perez was shot to death Friday at a motel, allegedly by a personal assistant who was accused of embezzling money from the singer's fan club.

Her service drew other artists from the Tejano scene, including Grupo Mazz, La Mafia, Emilio Navaira and Pete Astudillo.

"We express our hope in the resurrection of the dead with the Quintanilla family," said Sam Wax, the family's Jehovah's Witness minister, between scripture readings.

"If you have hope, you will not be like you can't live any more," said Selena's uncle, Eddie Quintanilla.

While fans were kept out of Seaside Memorial Park during the graveside ceremony, family members expressed gratitude for the thousands who converged on Corpus Christi to mourn Selena's death.

"She did a lot for the Hispanic community. She did a lot for our culture," said 33-year-old Lilia Pinon-Ortiz of Houston, one of more than 30,000 people who viewed the singer's casket at a convention centre Sunday.

About an hour before the 12-hour visitation ended, the family opened the coffin revealing the singer, wearing a purple dress. A family friend said the decision followed some fans' speculation that Selena's body was not inside.

The Grammy-winner was an idol to young Hispanic women, a Mexican-American version of Madonna. But the bereaved passing her coffin ranged from young children to the elderly.

"I think that Selena was a good-hearted person and people could read that through her — from little kids to middle age to senior citizens," said her father, Abraham Quintanilla Jr.

Although rooted in Tejano — the bouncy mixture of traditional Mexican music with German polka — Selena drew together many Latino musical styles that earned her legions of fans in the United States, Mexico and other countries.

Selena was one of the hottest-selling Tejano singers and expected by many to cross over into mainstream pop with the release of her first CD in English. Only four songs on the English release were finished when she died, her father said.

The suspect, Yolanda Saldivar, was being held in lieu of \$100,000 bail on a murder charge after police found her in a pickup truck, holding a gun to her head, outside the motel where Selena was shot, she surrendered after a long standoff.

Mr. Saldivar was accused by Selena's family of embezzling money from the club and possibly also from a San Antonio boutique and salon owned by the singer. She allegedly asked Selena to come to the motel after the singer's family confronted her about the money.

Ukraine parliament dismisses government

KIEV (R) — Ukraine's Parliament dismissed the former Soviet republic's government Tuesday, saying it had failed to implement plans to reform the economy.

Deputies, by a vote of 292 to 15, approved a no-confidence motion in the government headed by Acting Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk. Parliament Chairman Alexander Moroz said that under the constitution, the vote automatically meant the dismissal of the government.

After the confidence vote, President Leonid Kuchma challenged Ukrainians to modernise their country by pursuing the market reforms he had launched, but pledged to eliminate the social injustice inflicted by post-Soviet economic upheaval.

In a landmark speech to parliament, Kuchma also said his clampdown on separatism in Crimea was vital to extend three years of civil peace in the former Soviet republic.

Hanoi calls for end to 'armed activities' by Taiwan

HANOI (Agencies) — Vietnam called Tuesday for an end to "armed activities" in the Spratly Islands after Taiwanese artillery based on one of the disputed atolls fired at a Vietnamese supply ship.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman described the March 25 incident as "a very serious action in violation of Vietnam's sovereignty" that had raised tensions in the area.

Vietnam has protested to Taiwan, asking them to remove their people, equipment and machinery from Ban Than Island and to end their armed activities in the area," she said.

Taiwanese forces fired on the supply vessel Bien Dong 80 as it passed 800 metres from the atoll, where the Taiwanese began construction work last month. The spokeswoman said the shots missed the boat by less than a foot.

Taipei, which also claims the Spratly Islands along with China, the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei, has already rejected a protest delivered by Hanoi's representative in the Taiwanese capital.

Vice Foreign Minister Fan Chin-Yen maintained that Taiwan claimed the island, known as Meipantaochiao in Chinese, and that it had been justified in expelling foreign

vessels from its waters. Taiwan announced Monday that a naval patrol sent to the Spratly Islands after Taiwanese artillery based on one of the disputed atolls fired at a Vietnamese supply ship.

In a statement, the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry reiterated a call for all countries in the region to abide by the 1992 Manila Declaration at which the ASEAN countries urged all claimants to resolve the dispute.

Tensions in the South China Sea have risen ahead of Vietnam's entry into the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) in July, with a dispute breaking out between China and the Philippines, which claims some of the islands nearest to its shores.

A top Taiwan official responsible for the aborted patrol of the disputed Spratly Islands fought a hail of criticism Tuesday and threatened to punish others for the incident.

Interior Minister Huang Kun-Huei also denied the armed patrol's mission to the tense South China Sea area had been intended to reinforce Taiwan's sovereignty claims there, contradicting previous official statements.

"We want to know how this big fuss happened," Mr. Huang told reporters. "Was it done by our colleagues or how did it happen? Or was it because of media reports?"

"Of course, we will impose punishments," he added.

Several opposition parties called for Mr. Huang's resignation, chiding him for dismissing the patrol in a haze of publicity and then recalling it before it reached its destination.

The mass circulation China Times newspaper Tuesday quoted a spokesman for the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) as saying the incident was a joke and the government is impotent to protect its territory.

"For making this big international joke, government officials should certainly shoulder the political responsibility," the newspaper quoted the DPP's Su Chen-Chang as saying.

Opposition legislators also called for the resignation of Lu Yu-Chun, director-general of the National Police Administration (NPA), the body directly in charge of sending the armed patrol.

Taiwan said it withdrew the patrol to avoid international confrontation. The Philippines had said it might boost its forces in the Spratly after hearing of Taiwan's action.

Beijing maintains a considerable military presence there.

The Philippines last week arrested 62 Chinese fishermen and seized four Chinese boats for allegedly intruding into an area in the Spratly Islands claimed by Manila.

In February, it accused China of building possible naval structures in the area.

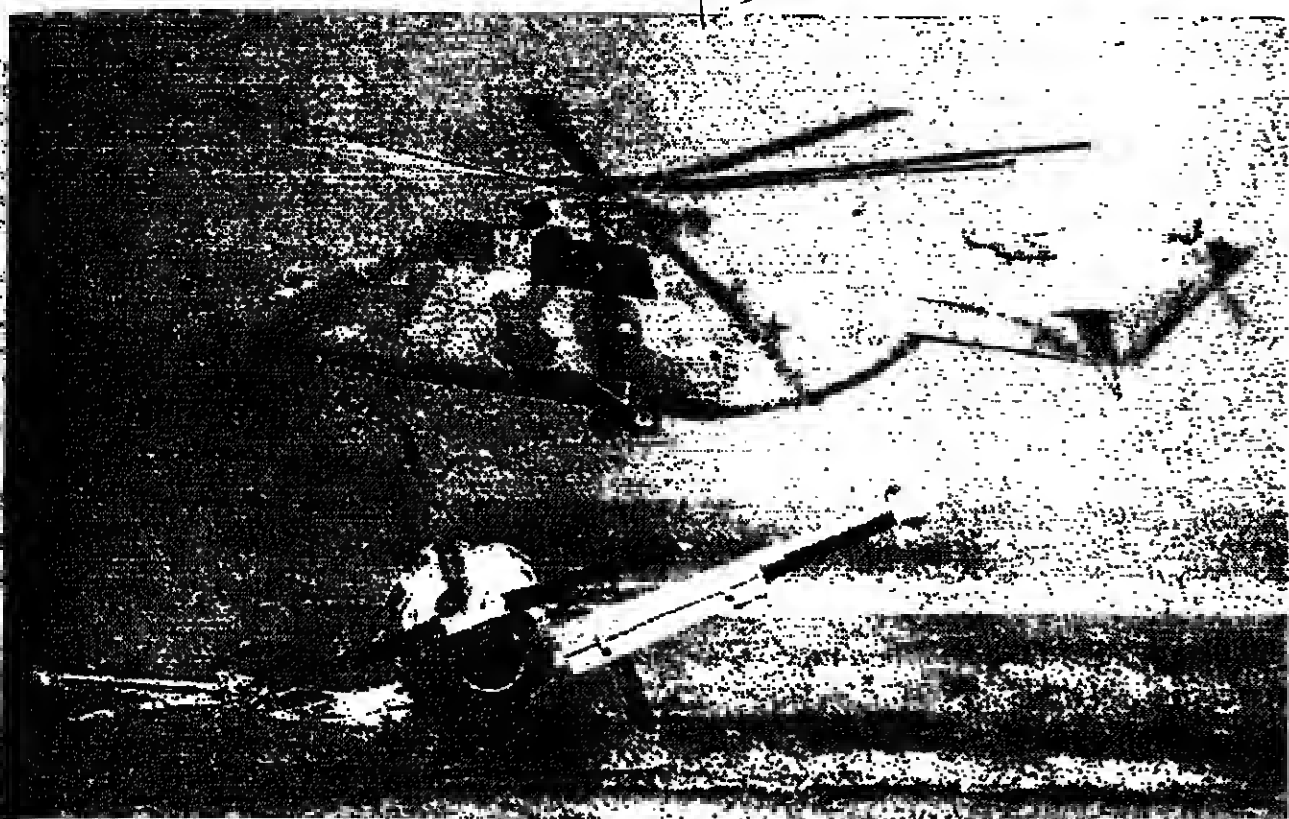
Beijing has denied the allegations. Taiwan's Interior Minister Huang said the patrol had been dispatched to protect Taiwanese fishermen in the region and not to reinforce sovereignty claims.

This contradicted earlier statements from officials. The patrol's mission included erecting a monument on the highest island in the Spratly, called Taiping here but also known as Itu Aha, to emphasise sovereignty.

Asian nations claiming the Spratly Islands made their concern over tension in the area loud and clear to China, Philippine Foreign Secretary Robert Romulo said Monday.

He said he expected the Spratly row to be discussed in talks starting Monday in Hangzhou near Shanghai among senior officials from China and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

World News



Russian military helicopters fly over a destroyed Chechen military aircraft at the Grozny airport (AFP photo)

Russians consolidate control in Chechenya

KHAZHI YURT, Russia (AFP) — Russian forces consolidated their control of Chechenya Tuesday, capturing a strategic point near the eastern town of Gudermes, and meeting little resistance in the southeast.

Troops shelled then seized control of the village of Oyskhara, 10 kilometres east of Gudermes, according to Saida Tassayeva, a refugee from the fighting.

Chechen separatist forces said they had retreated to a hill overlooking Oyskhara and were just south of Russian positions in the area.

According to other reports, Russian artillery Monday also pounded a road

leading to villages located in the breakaway republic's mountainous region, which represents the rebels' last refuge.

At the Russian military base in Mordok, officials said that their troops were no longer meeting heavy resistance around Shali, a separatist stronghold that fell to federal forces at the end of last week, ITAR-TASS news agency said.

However, rebel units are still holding out in the west of the republic, in the villages around the town of Achkhoy Martan, TASS said.

The Russian assault on the tiny oil-rich republic began on Dec. 11 in a bid to crush

President Dzhokhar Dudayev's secessionist rebellion.

The United Nations warned that neighbouring areas to Chechenya were being saturated with refugees fleeing the war.

A U.N. communiqué said more than 2,000 people, mainly women, children and the elderly, were crossing daily into Dagestan.

The refugees are mainly from the Shali and Gudermes regions, the communiqué said.

It added that fighting had spilled over into Dagestan on two occasions.

Last Saturday, fighting between Russian troops and

Chechen rebels spilled over into the Dagestan village of Tukhchar, located along the border. The fighting left five civilians and several Russian soldiers dead.

Meanwhile, the French E.U. presidency said Tuesday a European Union (EU) economic package deal with Russia will remain frozen so long as the situation in Chechenya is not resolved.

European Affairs Minister Alain Lamassoure told E.U. MPs that Russia had failed to meet promises made to a trio of European ministers who visited Moscow last month to discuss the crisis sparked by Russia's military crackdown on the separatist Caucasian republic.

"The European troika went to Moscow on March 9 and has to report that the conditions established by an interim accord have not been fulfilled despite commitments made by Russia," he said.

The troika ministers — from France, Germany and Spain — called on Moscow notably to implement a ceasefire, allow aid in, began political discussions and grant access to a team of monitors from the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

An EU-Russia partnership accord was agreed at last June's EU Corfu summit and was on the point of being approved by the Commission on an interim basis which would have allowed enactment of its economic and commercial aspects pending ratification of the full accord by the parliament of EU member states.

It was frozen in January.



Two Russian OMON militiamen, special forces of the Russian Interior Ministry, help a wounded Chechen fighter get out of an aircraft, which arrived from Chechenya with 250 OMON fighters at the military airport of Chkalovsky near Moscow (AFP photo)

S. Korean troops put on alert against North

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korea's army chief ordered a nationwide troop alert Tuesday as the deadline for a contract implementing the stalled U.S.-North Korean nuclear deal neared.

"Troops should be on a heightened state of vigilance against North Korea," the Defence Ministry quoted army chief of staff Yoon Yong-Nam as saying in a written order.

"All soldiers should be ready as ever for all situations."

The instruction came on the second day of massive air, ground and naval manoeuvres against a simulated North Korean invasion, the first under full South Korean command after U.S. military supervision ended last December.

Some 80,000 troops were mobilised for the six-day manoeuvres, held in three regions of the country and across the national air space.

The army chief warned that North Korea had "threatened to risk war" if the April 21 deadline passed without any contract on providing safer nuclear reactors in North Korea, the ministry said.

He accused the Stalinist state of stalling the nuclear deal by rejecting standard reactors from South Korea, which is being asked to shoulder much of the \$4 billion needed to build the reactors.

U.S. North Korea negotiations in Berlin last week became bogged down, triggering fears of a fresh crisis on the volatile peninsula. South Korean leaders have threatened to push for sanctions against Pyongyang.

"There is no change in the North Korean attitude," President Kim Young-Sam told a gathering of anti-Communist leaders here Tuesday, accusing Pyongyang of stepping up a smear

campaign against Seoul.

The president was quoted as insisting that South Korea should not back down in the nuclear deal.

Uncertainty over the nuclear pact has caused South Korea to adopt a tough policy toward Washington, the South's Yonhap News Agency said.

South Korea's firm position will be conveyed to Washington during talks Friday in New York among U.S., Japanese and South Korean officials, Yonhap said.

"The United States should heed opinions in South Korea and Japan, which will shoulder much of the financial burden for the light-water reactors," a government official told Yonhap.

The president has warned that North Korea may deliberately provoke a new crisis and said Seoul may pull out of a consortium formed to build the reactors if Pyongyang maintained its stance.

Yonhap said South Korea hopes the Korea Energy Development Organisation (KEDO), a multilateral body responsible for the reactor project, will take over negotiations with North Korea.

"The KEDO should be the chief negotiator," an unnamed official was quoted as saying.

In Washington, the U.S. State Department raised the possibility that Russia may play a role under a "subcontracting arrangement" decided by KEDO.

"Russia has signalled that it is interested by a share of that business," State Department spokeswoman Christine Shelley said Tuesday, adding: "We'd welcome Russian participation."

But South Korean diplomats in Washington voiced objections to the idea, asking Russia to contribute money to KEDO instead, Yonhap said.

He said Burundi's army, dominated by the Tutsi minority, had been hunting Hutu gunmen of the Palipehutu Movement. He said there were fatalities among guerrillas and civilians taken hostage by gunmen in clashes with troops and that the gunmen wanted to move south from Muyinga province to Karuzi.

"We can fully expect Hutu gunmen to retaliate as soon as possible for this massacre," a Western diplomat said. "They are not a highly-organised guerrilla force but can hit back."

The massacres around Gasorwe apparently prompted the exodus of 50,000 Rwandan refugees who headed for Tanzania until the border was closed. The Rwandans were among hundreds of thousands of Hutus who fled ethnic violence at home last year.

A Western diplomat told Reuters the Gasorwe killings were clearly a massacre. He said he saw a year-old Hutu girl who had been bayoneted in her genitals so she would never bear children.

"There is no question this is genocide," he said.

Four wounded survivors — all children — were in the intensive care unit at the government-run hospital in Muyinga Monday. Some had been shot, others slashed and some stoned.

An 11-year-old boy was shot in the right cheek, with the bullet exiting near his left eye. Doctors said it was a miracle he had survived but said he would lose sight in the eye.

War picks up in Bosnia

SARAJEVO (AFP) — Fighting between Bosnian government troops and separatist Serbs picked up Tuesday on several fronts as international talks resumed in London on ways to save Bosnia's frayed ceasefire.

In northeast Bosnia, Bosnian Serb radio reported new infantry assaults Tuesday morning by government forces in the Stolice area, east of the U.N.-declared safe area of Tuzla.

The Bosnian government army's Second Corps press centre in Tuzla said the Serbs had fired some 2,000 shells at its lines overnight and Tuesday. It also accused the Serbs of firing one shell into a Tuzla suburb, but said the shell had fallen into a garden and caused no damage.

United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) spokesman Major Herve Gourmelon suggested a battle was ongoing near Kalesija, 30 kilometres (18 miles) southeast of Tuzla, where over 900 shells fell Monday, some narrowly missing a U.N. observation post where a Dutch soldier was killed last week.

Maj. Gourmelon said three shells hit the U.N.-declared safe area of Bihac town, in the northwest of the country, Tuesday afternoon. There

was no immediate report of casualties or damage.

Reports of increased fighting also came from the Posavina corridor, north of Tuzla and the Doboj region, further to the west, areas whose frontlines had remained calm over the past weeks.

Bosnian Serb radio said two civilians were wounded Monday evening in the town of Brcko, in the Posavina corridor, when Croat forces who hold a nearby pocket fired 16 shells into the town.

This was the first indication that Bosnian Croat forces, possibly backed by regular forces from neighbouring Croatia, had joined the Muslim-led government offensive in the northeastern sector.

Serb radio also accused the Bosnian Croat and Croatian forces of firing some 80 rounds at the town of Glamo, in the southwest, along with 100 more rounds at their lines nearby.

Meanwhile, the U.N. spoke of continued fighting in central Bosnia, in the Vlastic Mountain area, west of Travnik.

In Sarajevo, a 42-year-old woman suffered serious head wounds when shot by a sniper in the Dobrinja area, near the airport, Tuesday morning, the Kosevo Hospital

said.

Overnight, Bosnian Serb forces attacked a key government-held supply route near the capital with cannon, heavy machine gun and mortar fire, despite a protest by UNPROFOR.

It was not immediately known whether any of the convoys using the winding dirt track road leading down from Mount Igman to the city had been hit.

UNPROFOR spokesman Yuri Shishayev said the Serbs had fired six bursts of 20mm cannon fire, three mortar shells and more than 150 rounds of heavy machine gun fire at the Igman road, the only government-controlled overland link between the capital and the rest of the federation.

UNPROFOR spokeswoman Captain Myriam Sochacki said the U.N. had issued a telephone warning to the Serbs to stop firing at the road and had threatened to retaliate.

Firing at the road lasted for over three hours Monday evening, stopped for an hour after the warning was given, but continued with smaller weapons later, Maj. Gourmelon said.

UNPROFOR had earlier issued strong warnings to the Serbs over their repeated use

of heavy machine guns and anti-aircraft cannons against the road, a violation of the heavy weapon exclusion zone set up a year ago around Sarajevo.

In London, experts from the five-nation "contact group" were meeting in an effort to save the four-month Bosnian ceasefire which technically runs out at the end of the month.

The major powers trying to broker a peace deal in former Yugoslavia agreed Tuesday to press Bosnia's Muslim-led government to extend the shaky ceasefire, diplomats said.

But senior officials from the United States, Russia, France, Germany and Britain — the five-nation contact group — failed at a London meeting to agree on how to get Serbia to back their peace efforts, the diplomats said.

The contact group would try to complete an agreed position on how to offer Serbia gradual relief from U.N. sanctions in exchange for diplomatic recognition of Bosnia and Serbia in the next few weeks. There are disagreements over the timing of this.

Officials were then planning to travel to Belgrade, Zagreb and Sarajevo before the end of the month, the diplomats said.

Pakistan police crack down on militants

KARACHI (AFP) — Pakistani police have launched a nationwide sweep on Sunni extremists as they seek to stem a wave of inter-Muslim violence in Karachi, the nation's economic capital, according to a police report obtained by AFP.

Five men arrested earlier this week, in Karachi, on several counts of murder and terrorism against the Shiite community were all affiliated to the militant Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP), the report said. The SSP is an extremist Sunni organisation, which is considered pro-Saudi.

Investigators are also looking for possible links between Ramzi Ahmad Yousef, the man accused of bombing the World Trade Centre in New York in 1993, and the five arrested in Karachi.

Ramzi was extradited by Pakistani authorities to the United States in early February.

The crackdown coincides with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's departure Tuesday for the United States for her first official visit there since her election in October 1993.

On the eve of her departure, Ms. Bhutto said her government "is engaged in rooting out those subversive forces who want to take society hostage through ethnic and sectarian terrorism."

The police report obtained by AFP is based on the questioning of an SSP militant, Mohammad Ilyas, arrested in February. Ilyas names his "friends and accomplices" in Pakistan. The list contains names and addresses of SSP members in Karachi and other cities.

Officials said a crackdown was underway and more arrests were on the cards on information gleaned from the men already in custody.

At least five of the men arrested this week are named in the police report, which describes how the SSP established four groups to carry out terrorist acts against Shiite Muslim targets.

One of the groups has been implicated in the killing of 20 Shiite men in two separate attacks on mosques on Feb. 25. Ballistic evidence indicates the same weapon was used in the attacks on the Shiite mosques and the killing of six Sunni men in a house on March 1.

Investigators are also examining links between this group and associates of Ramzi Ahmad Yousef.

One of Ramzi's associates, Abdul Shakoor, arrested last month in the northern city of Peshawar, was also a member of the SSP and named other members of the organisation as being involved in terrorist acts in Karachi.

"We have no firm evidence that the two groups are working together," said one official, but he acknowledged that the men from both groups "probably knew each other" since they were members of the same party, the SSP.

Balladur sees presidency bid improving

PARIS (Agencies) — Conservative Prime Minister Edouard Balladur said Tuesday that a tightening of the French presidential race in its final weeks showed that his new and more aggressive campaign style was working.

"I think the French people have again recognised what are the stakes in this election," Mr. Balladur said, commenting on polls showing him closing the gap with front-runner and fellow Gaullist Jacques Chirac, who is the mayor of Paris.

"Perhaps I have done a better job of explaining myself in the past two weeks than I had earlier," Mr. Balladur told Radio Monte-Carlo. He described himself as "confident, optimistic and resolute" ahead of the first-round ballot on April 23.

Initially the runaway favourite in the contest to succeed retiring Socialist President Francois Mitterrand, Mr. Balladur acknowledged last month, after his early straggled lead had melted away, that his campaign had begun badly.

In recent weeks polls have shown him battling with Socialist contender Lionel Jospin for a second-place finish and the right to oppose Mr. Chirac in the May 7 run-off round, though the latest polls have shown him catching up to Mr. Chirac.

To revive his chances, the premier has sought to alter his image as a wealthy patrician uncomfortable slapping backs and smug about the status quo.

He adopted an aggressive new campaigning style in which he touted the need for change, reached out to young people and women and — reviving a family pet name — led crowds in chanting, "go Doudou, Go."

In a new slap at Mr. Chirac, Mr. Balladur dismissed a charge by his fellow Gaullist that his government had taken too strong a grip on the economy and the media.

"I think the French people would be stunned to hear such talk," Mr. Balladur said. "If this were truly the character of the government that I have led, it would have no support."

Mr. Chirac, trying to shore up his dwindling lead, had accused the premier Monday of creating a "Balladur state" marked by demagoguery.

Surveys show that around four in 10 voters are still undecided. An IFOP poll said Mr. Chirac had lost 2.5 points to stand at 24.5 per cent while Mr. Jospin remained on 22 per cent and Mr. Balladur had edged up 1.5 points to 20.5 per cent.

However, the IFOP poll published Sunday in the weekly Le Journal Du Dimanche showed Mr. Chirac ahead of either rival in a run-off contest.

Meanwhile, Socialist opponents of Mr. Balladur sought Tuesday to make mileage out of an incident in which the French premier had to hitch a lift to an election meeting, alleging it had been staged.

However supporters of the Gaullist leader, and even the woman motorist involved who said she wouldn't be voting for Mr. Balladur even though he had been "quite nice," denied there was anything mysterious about the incident.

Pierre Moscovici, campaign treasurer to Socialist candidate Lionel Jospin, wondered aloud whether the woman who picked up Mr. Balladur when his helicopter was forced down in fog 20 kilometres away from an election rally in Provence last

month was not in fact a plant set in place to provide a good story.

He pointed out that the woman involved, Claire Lacaille, was a distant relative of pro-Balladur deputy Georges Tron.

"M. Balladur goes bitching and who does he happen to get picked up by? A woman in a Mercedes called Lacaille, who just happens to be the cousin of his parliamentary attaché," he said on French radio.

"That's rich. In any other country that sort of thing wouldn't be left there. There would be consequences. In the United States the candidate wouldn't be allowed to stand," he added.

Mr. Tron, a deputy for a constituency near Paris, rejected the accusation out of hand.

"How could anyone think I would go and find someone with the same name as my paternal grandmother?" he said, describing the whole allegation as "absurd."

Ms. Lacaille herself vehemently denied the accusation — and said she wasn't even planning to vote for Mr. Balladur in forthcoming ballots.

"I regret the insinuation that it was a fix. I can assure you it was pure random chance," she said. "How would M. Balladur have arranged the fog?" she added.

She said she had had no contact with Mr. Tron, whom she described as a distant family relative. "We have no contact with him and personally I have never seen him," she said.

"What's more I will tell you that if I vote for a rightist candidate I will not vote for Balladur, and I will not change my mind even if he was quite nice," she added.

Judge halts Major interview with BBC

LONDON (R) — The BBC, hit by accusations of biased reporting and now accused of prejudicing elections, had to pull an interview with British Prime Minister John Major from Scottish television screens at the last moment.

Monday's ruling by an Edinburgh judge plunged the state-owned broadcaster into a new row over its impartiality. Opposition parties argued that screening the interview would have given the ruling Conservatives an unfair advantage in Scotland's local elections this week.

"The BBC were acting on the edge of a cliff with a petulance which is unworthy

of this great corporation," the opposition Labour Party's Scottish spokesman George Robertson said.

But Social Security Minister Peter Lilley argued: "There was no need to bring the courts into this."

The British Broadcasting Corporation launched a last-ditch court appeal against the judge's ruling just before the programme was due to go out Monday night. It lost that too in a legal move that could have important implications for the British media.

The BBC even stopped broadcasting the interview in parts of Northern Ireland and in Northern Ireland in

case Scottish viewers could pick it up from those transmitters.

For BBC Director General John Birt: "This judgement raises serious constitutional issues."

"The BBC has a deep commitment to political impartiality, but achieving balance involves interviewing politicians from all parties over a period of time in a variety of contexts and programmes, a process which involves many day by day judgements."

"We don't believe the courts should wish to substitute their judgment for the BBC's on a matter of political impartiality."

Mrs. Clinton starts visit to Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (AFP) — Hillary Clinton, wife of the U.S. president, arrived here Tuesday on the final leg of a five-nation tour which has taken her to the most populous, and one of the poorest, regions in the world.

Mrs. Clinton, who flew here after spending three days in Bangladesh, was welcomed at the capital's Katunayake Airport by Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgama.

During her overnight stay, Mrs. Clinton was due to meet President Chandrika Kumaratunga and members of the American community in Sri Lanka, visit a Buddhist temple and inspect community development projects.

Sri Lankan officials said she had cancelled a luncheon at a resort hotel 80 kilometres south of the capital Colombo and would be leaving the island Wednesday a few hours earlier than originally planned.

No reason was given for cutting short the visit by at least four hours. However, she was expected to visit a community development project within the city Wednesday.

Officials said she was also expected to meet top women representatives from

government and non-governmental organisations at a tea party at a luxury hotel overlooking the Indian Ocean.

Mrs. Clinton has been campaigning for women to play a more active role in tackling poverty, inadequate housing and health care in developing countries, and boosting educational and employment opportunities.

She has already visited Pakistan, India and Nepal since March 24 when she began her tour of a region with a population of over one billion people, most of whom earn less than \$400 a year.

Burundi army: Only 20 known dead from attack

BUJUMBURA (R) — Burundi's army said Tuesday it knew of only 20 deaths from a reported massacre of 400 Hutu tribespeople but said it was hunting for the attackers.

"There were around 20 dead but I don't yet have the definitive toll," Lieutenant-Colonel Jean-Bosco Daradagwe told Reuters after diplomats and aid workers said some 400 people, mostly women and children, had been massacred in the north-east.

"Whoever put forward a toll of 400 did not verify his information," Col. Daradagwe said.

The United Nations said in Geneva it had unconfirmed reports of mass killings in two other villages in the east of Burundi.

The U.N. refugee agency called on Burundi's government to provide better protection for Rwandan refugees living in camps, and appealed to Tanzania to reopen its border, slammed shut Friday after an exodus of 50,000 Rwandans from northern Burundi.

Tanzania said Tuesday it was sticking to its decision. Burundi has long teetered on the brink of killings on the scale of Rwanda, where up to a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates were massacred last year by Hutu troops and militia.

Col. Daradagwe said troops were hunting for gunmen in Gasorwe where aid workers and diplomats said, the 400 Hutus were killed after being taken hostage last week.

The massacres around Gasorwe apparently prompted the exodus of 50,000 Rwandan refugees who headed for Tanzania until the border was closed. The Rwandans were among hun-

Father sued
five-year-old
abandoned

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
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More effective alternative

TWO WEEKS after storming into northern Iraq, the Turkish army is still unable to neutralise the Kurdish rebel bases. The Kurdish separatists are still strong enough to attack the invading soldiers and inflict heavy casualties among them. This is in no way surprising. No one expected the twenty-something thousand Turkish soldiers to achieve a quick victory over the rebels who can manoeuvre the Turkish army in their own tough and mountainous region.

What is even less surprising is the complacent international reaction to Ankara's drive to wipe out the Kurdish rebels.

What the Turkish Kurds want is quite similar to what the Iraqi Kurds aspire to achieve. They want separation from the countries that they say are oppressing them.

In the case of the Iraqi Kurds, the whole Western world provided financial, military and political support. In the case of the Turkish Kurds, however, all that some of the Western world did was voice disapproval of Turkey's action. Accordingly, Turkish tanks continue to roam freely inside Iraq's territory, with Turkish politicians basking in the knowledge that nobody can do more than condemn their action. Even more, they know that this condemnation will have no long-term impact on Turkey's ties with the West.

Considering the record of the international community in dealing with such conflicts, all but the naive would have expected a different reaction. After the Gulf war, Iraq has become the black sheep of the region. It lost its military power as well as its political clout. The country is all but paralysed and the world continues to disregard all the legitimate needs of the Iraqi people. The sanctions on Baghdad continue because none of the powers that count see the reason to end them. Hitting Iraq and subjugating it has become the classical technique for politicians in the U.S. and Britain to salvage their national standings when they fall, to show some idealism when the pressure for it is high, and to market their military industries to countries that still buy the argument that Iraq is the bad guy in the neighbourhood.

So why end the sanctions? The balance of power in the area and the interest of many Western powers do not require that. But it is this balance of power and these interests that allow for this deafening silence on Turkey's illegal action of invading a foreign country and wreaking havoc in an area declared as a U.N. safe haven.

Turkey is a member of NATO with a contribution that the West deems vital. It is a power that the West needs to reckon with for various political and economic considerations. It is a country that the West does not want to disturb.

Germany has demanded that Turkey ends its operation in Iraq immediately. But Germany should know that the demand will not be heeded unless it is accompanied by strong action that would force Ankara to realise the inadvisability of continuing on with the operation. That would require a joint Western action that has the backing of the United States. This, however, is very unlikely. And thus Ankara will not feel the heat to withdraw its troops from Iraq.

But Turkey has a better reason to send its soldiers back to the barracks and start dialogue with the rebels. That is the long-term interest and stability of Turkey itself. The tanks could succeed in crushing the Kurdish rebels. But they will also increase resentment among the whole Kurdish people for Turkey. That means the conflict would erupt anew at any point in the future. The Kurds' demand for separation from Turkey could be a demand that cannot be endorsed or fulfilled due to many legal and pragmatic factors. But so is the resort to force. Dialogue is an alternative — and is an alternative that is much more effective than arms.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily on Tuesday dealt with the international economic summit which will be hosted by Jordan in October. The newspaper said it was important for Jordan to successfully prepare for the summit to convince others of the importance of supporting the Kingdom. It said His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has repeatedly reiterated the significance of the summit and called for continuing efforts to prepare an efficient team that would negotiate the terms of a partnership agreement between the Kingdom and the European Union (EU) due to start in July. The paper said the Europeans are neighbours with enormous economic capabilities and energies. To convince them of the importance of cooperation between the EU and the Middle East and the need to give Jordan a top listing in their investment programmes, they should be dealt with through senior officials, the newspaper said. It also said the private sector should play a role that should convince other countries that Jordan is keen to achieve comprehensive development.

Washington Watch

Arab-American merchants and the crisis of inner city

By Dr. James Zogby

DURING THE first three months of the Republican's leadership of Congress, those who follow U.S. politics have been subjected to a series of descriptions about how the U.S. is facing serious troubles these days and that action needs to be taken. This did not come as news to the Arab-American community.

Since the end of 1990, 12 Arab-American grocers have been murdered in the U.S. city of Cleveland.

Rohreries, vandalism, shoplifting, and drugs have become so commonplace near their shops that many frightened merchants have been compelled to keep weapons behind their counters or carry them in their cars as they drive to and from work. Several grocers have even gone to the trouble of erecting bullet-proof walls around their offices. Sadly, the plight of these men is not an isolated case.

Cleveland is not unlike many other major U.S. cities. Long-term poverty, urban decay and lack of opportunity for economic growth have produced tragic social ills: crime, violence, drugs, gangs, welfare dependency and ethnic tensions.

A generation ago, the U.S. faced a similar set of circumstances in its inner cities. Night clubs were burned, stores were looted — cities became war zones.

The riots prompted efforts by federal, state and local governments to address the root causes of these tensions, and some progress was made. But with budgets declining at all levels of government, and as a result of the growing despair and anger brought on by long-term (and now systemic) poverty, U.S. inner cities are once again in deep crisis.

Today there are the daily problems of crime, drugs and violence; they there are also flash-points that periodically erupt at different places at different times.

In New York City, for example, black, Caribbean and Korean immigrant merchants clashed after a Korean merchant attacked a black woman in his store whom he believed was stealing from him. A four-month boycott of Korean groceries and daily demonstrations followed.

Around the same time, in the Crown Heights neighbourhood of New York, riots flared up between African-American and the Hasidic Jewish community after a Jew killed an African-American boy in an auto accident.

In Washington, D.C., there were riots among Salvadoran immigrants after a police officer shot and killed a member of their community. Stores were looted and an entire section of the city was cordoned off until peace was restored.

Asian-American merchants in Washington have also been victims of boycotts and regular violence in the inner city. Since 1993, 10 Asian store owners have been killed in that city during robbery attempts.

The most well-known of these eruptions took place in Los Angeles, where riots broke out after four white police officers were found not guilty of beating an African-American man. The verdict outraged the African-

American community because the beating had been videotaped and shown over national television. The riots caused 53 deaths, damaged 5,200 stores and resulted in one half billion dollars in damages. The primary victims were Korean merchants, but many Arab and Muslim-American stores were also looted and burned.

This was also the case in Chicago. In 1992, after that city's basketball team won the national championship, the city exploded in riots. The two days of rioting and looting affected almost 400 Arab-American businesses, with those businesses accounting for \$5 million of the more than \$14 million in damages city-wide.

There have been no riots in Cleveland, but there is sustained violence and crime. An examination of this problem could provide some understanding of the root causes of not only the problems in Cleveland, but those facing all American inner cities.

In general, American inner cities have been victims of neglect. As the white population has left the cities and moved to the suburbs, they took their wealth with them, leaving poor African-Americans as the majority population of America's inner cities. While the poverty rate among all urban residents is 15 per cent, 12 per cent of those living in the inner cities fall below the official poverty line. These numbers represent an increase of 40 per cent over the past two decades.

In the same period, crime in the inner cities, including violent crime, has also increased by 41 per cent.

Chronic poverty and unemployment among such a large segment of the Cleveland's population translate into declining tax revenues, making it more difficult for the city and other public institutions to provide services and employment. Even the physical infrastructure of the inner city, both public and private housing, is dilapidated and neglected.

It is this combination of fewer jobs, declining income and worsening environmental conditions which defines daily life in Cleveland's inner city.

It is into this environment that Cleveland's recent Arab-American immigrants have arrived. For Arab-Americans, owning and running small businesses is a typical first step to economic success. Unlike many other immigrant groups which were able to use industrial employment and unions, or education, or public employment as their stepping-stone into American life, Arab-Americans have historically looked at small businesses as the first rung of the economic ladder. Over 35 per cent of Cleveland's recent immigrants are self-employed, usually small, family-owned businesses. In fact, over 350 small grocery stores in Cleveland are owned by Arab-Americans.

This is what has set the stage for the violence and tension that currently exists in that community. With 12 killings, almost every store owner a victim of violence or robbery (in one four-month period alone, 11 per cent of the Arab-American businesses were victimised), a climate of fear exists.

Over the years, our community has learned a great deal

about this dilemma and how to deal with it. It was roughly 10 years ago that we realised how potentially explosive this situation could become. Arab-Americans had developed a close and strong working relationship with the African-American leadership, on the national level. But on the local level, we began to witness the unravelling of this partnership as a result of the tension between the grocers and their African-American customers.

We began to organise human relations meetings around the U.S. in an effort to bring local merchants representatives of both communities together in a dialogue aimed at improving the relationship between two communities.

As we conducted these sessions between community leaders we learned a disturbing fact that both communities were victims not only of the economic and social realities of inner city life, but of racial stereotypes as well. It was not uncommon to hear immigrant Arab merchants describe their African-American customers in crude language. It became strikingly clear to me that the African-American community carried its own baggage into the discussion during a meeting in Chicago when tensions ran high. An African-American minister, her patience wearing thin, exploded, "We know who you are. We burned you out of here 30 years ago. When the smoke cleared, you came back with your Arab money and bought up our community."

The comment was revealing on two levels, cultural and economic. First, Arab-American merchants had not been a presence in Chicago 30 years ago, but ironically, Jewish merchants had been. But the second issue the comment underscored was economic: Wave after wave of immigrants who came into inner city communities with capital, opened up shops and stores, made enough money to move up the economic ladder and did move — out of the city and into the suburbs. For African-Americans trapped in those deteriorating core areas, it was a bitter lesson in class strife and economic and racial realities.

It also became clear that there was a tragedy aspect to this crisis: two victim communities pitted by history, circumstances and economic forces — against each other. Both Arab-Americans and African-Americans hope that the situation in Cleveland can be reversed.

For their part, the Arab-American merchants have formed a business association in an effort to deal with their problems — both their relations with the government and also their business practices. The Arab-Americans in Cleveland are now participating in a city-sponsored effort to seek solutions to a wide range of problems facing both store owners and the communities in which they do business.

The Arab-Americans have also commissioned and completed an extensive study of the problem and have come up with a set of recommendations to help improve business relations and the inner city generally.

Because Cleveland's African-American leadership and the city's Mayor (himself an African-American) are receptive to working with the Arab-American community effort, there is hope that changes can be made.



An uncreative press

By Dr. James L. Gillespie

AS I watched American journalists question first American Secretary of State Warren Christopher and then U.S. Vice President Al Gore during the latest in the seemingly endless round of negotiating trips to the Middle East, the boredom — and the lack of creativity — of the U.S. press corps was evident. The press is of course simply practising good old free-market journalism: the American public has been turned-off by a stuttering peace process that has lost dramatic appeal. For all this, the Middle East peace process is America's most expensive foreign venture.

This is true not only in terms of tax dollars — not to mention the very generous private support for Israel provided by the Jewish communities of cities such as my own home town of Cleveland, which ranks only behind New York City in private support for Israel; it is also true in relation to American investments of time and talent.

No sooner had Warren Christopher left the region than Vice President Gore arrived. It may, therefore, still be worthwhile to look briefly at two "missing links" in American perceptions of the peace process which will limit popular and congressional support. Jordan's recent problems with the U.S. House of Representatives should remind the people of the Kingdom of the degree to which Congress reflects popular misunderstandings — and misunderstandings — of the region. Such American opinions are shaped to a very large degree by the print and electronic media of the nation.

Both Secretary Christopher and Vice President Gore were grilled by the

press on the Golan Heights. The Golan is important to Syria, but not only for security as Americans assume. It is Israel that has primary security interests on the Golan. For Syria the Golan is of two-fold importance: 1. prestige and 2. economics. The loss of the Golan in the 1967 war was in part the result of a clever Israeli espionage operation which saw Elie Cohen infiltrate the highest levels of the Syrian government, a major embarrassment to Syria. The subsequent Israeli destruction of the Golan city of Qunayra before its return to Syria in 1974 remains an open wound, a wound festering by visits of schoolchildren as well as Westerners such as myself in 1991 to the carefully preserved ruins. The Golan also contains well-watered agricultural land badly needed by a nation whose population has doubled since its loss. The Golan Heights are important, but this is not the issue holding up the peace. Secret talks have long been underway and a modus vivendi on the Golan is within easy reach of the parties.

Lebanon is the unrecognised key to Israeli-Syrian peace. Israel has not been attacked from the Golan in two decades; it is engaged in daily combat with Islamic militias along the Lebanese frontier. The American press and hence the American public are largely unaware of some basic truths on the importance of Lebanon. The Lebanese civil war is old news for U.S. journalists who now ignore the situation there, and the aftermath of Lebanon's problems are an unreported key to the extension of the present peace process. Israel and Syria have been engaged in a struggle for the control of Lebanon for

these same two decades. Syrians have always felt Lebanon was unjustly carved out of their nation by the French for the benefit of Maronite Christians. Israel created its own "security zone" in southern Lebanon replete with Israeli troops and a Lebanese client militia. The recent — and ill-reported in the U.S. — Israeli blockade of the Lebanese fishing fleet which only ended in preparation for the Christopher/Gore visits is but the most recent attempt to impress upon the Beirut government that it cannot tilt too far towards Syria. Syrian and Jordanian officials to whom I have spoken insist that Lebanon is the real stumbling block to an Israel-Syrian peace. Yet this issue was not raised in the Christopher/Gore meetings with the U.S. press.

When Mr. Christopher and Mr. Gore came to Amman, there was much comment on the failure of Congress to honour the pledge President Clinton made at the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty to cancel Jordan's debts to the U.S. It is well established that American support is necessary for the success of the peace process. The 1978 Camp David accords between Egypt and Israel were supported with American subsidies. Israel and Egypt remain the largest recipients of U.S. foreign aid. Jordan, recovering from an economic slump, has tried to impress upon its citizens the economic benefits which peace can bring. The Jordanian government must be in a position to demonstrate tangible benefits to peace.

Debt cancellation was a favourite subject for the American journalists accompanying Mr. Christopher and Mr. Gore, but they have overlooked the linkage of sanctions against

Iraq to Jordan's situation. There is a desire among Americans quietly to bury Jordan's refusal to join the Desert Storm coalition. We and our journalists forget that Iraq is traditionally Jordan's biggest trading partner, and the chief client for Jordan's only port Aqaba. Jordan's refusal to endorse the coalition war on Iraq after the invasion of Kuwait has been very costly. It has contributed to the Kingdom's economic slowdown. Without an economically healthy Iraq the Jordanian economy will never fully realise its peace dividend no matter how much debt the U.S. may forgive.

Further, Iraq is an emotional issue here, and this is unreported in the U.S. because of the desire to sustain the campaign against the Iraqi regime. Ironically, Jordan's stand on the Gulf crisis later enabled the country to get on board the U.S. engineered peace train without facing cries that it was a porter for American interests in the region. Continuing reports in Jordan of the suffering of the Iraqi people keep emotions high.

This is not to condone the regime of Saddam Hussein.

I hope this brief account of U.S. investment in Middle East peace, and some fresh slants on the process may momentarily surmount the boredom manifest in a long story with no resolution in sight. Perhaps the American press can be more creative in reporting the story, and focusing the attention of Americans upon an issue in which we have a genuine interest. Then the press can get back to the real issue of importance: "Is O.J. Simpson guilty?"

The writer is a senior research fellow at the American Centre of Oriental Research in Amman.

Changing Africa's image in Congress

By David Briscoe
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With sentiment against foreign aid running high in the U.S. Congress and among the public, the Clinton administration is trying to change Africa's image as a continent where aid has little impact.

A string of officials, including high-ranking State Department officers, trooped to Capitol Hill with glowing reports of democratic progress and upbeat assessments of such nations as Ghana, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa.

Their reception has been cordial, with Democrats sympathetic and some Republicans looking for better reasons to aid countries where U.S. interests often seem distant.

"What do I tell constituents who want to cut all foreign aid?" Senator James Jeffords, a Republican, asked at an Appropriations Subcommittee hearing last week.

Administration witnesses responded that U.S. help for Africans costs little more than \$3 a year for each African family.

But Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Jesse Helms, a conservative Republican, referred to a widespread view that foreign aid is often wasted in Africa.

Stoking anti-aid sentiments in Congress are concerns about human rights abuses, upheavals in Somalia and Rwanda, drug smuggling in Nigeria and favouritism in aid programmes to South Africa.

New attention to drug smuggling on the African continent has brought calls to impose sanctions on Nigeria for failing to crack down on worldwide drug transport networks that use the country.

Within a few weeks, the Agency for International Development (AID) expects to complete a review of its South African programmes to determine whether black-owned American businesses have been unduly favoured in procurement contracts.

Much of U.S. aid goes to purchase goods and services from American companies for things such as

housing and training of government workers. And the Republican majority in Congress has vowed to strike down laws and regulations that favour women, blacks and other minorities to the disadvantage of others.

During the cold war, aid to sub-Saharan Africa was used to promote U.S. interests against Soviet and Cuban intervention.

Now AID advocates stress humanitarian objectives, the United States' historic ties to Africa and opportunities for American business.

Last year, U.S. companies exported nearly \$4.4 billion in goods to a market that includes half a billion consumers.

"Out aid to Africa is not welfare, nor is it charity," said AID administrator Brian Atwood in a recent speech. "It is an investment we make in other people for our own self-interest."

The bulk of annual aid outlays to sub-Saharan Africa — now around \$800 million — goes to the Development Fund for Africa, which some Republicans want abolished. Its programme includes efforts to combat AIDS, upgrade education and improve child survival in 40 African countries.

An additional \$328 million would go to economic support, peacekeeping, military training, the peace corps, refugee assistance and other programmes.

By far the highest sub-Saharan recipient of U.S. aid is South Africa, with \$600 million projected over three years.

In congressional hearings last week Assistant Secretary of State George E. Moose and Assistant AID administrator John F. Hicks argued that the outlook for Africa was promising and that aid, in the long run, is cheaper than dealing with natural disasters and civil wars.

"Although we cannot prevent all crises," Mr. Hicks said, "stronger African economies and societies will reduce their likelihood, enable government to respond more effectively, mitigate the impact of crises when they occur, and lessen Africa's dependence on outside help."

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Features

IF IT is not true, it ought to be. A Catholic journalist from England was travelling in a car in Italy with three English priests. It was siesta time and there was nothing on the road: even so, they stopped at some red traffic lights. The few Italian drivers who followed slowed at the junction, peered left and right, and moved across. The English waited. Eventually, the lights changed and they pulled away. "Now do you understand the Italian attitude to Humanæ Vitæ?" one priest asked.

Humanæ Vitæ was the 1968 encyclical by Pope Paul VI which surprised the world by proscribing contraception, overturning the recommendation of a painstaking pontifical commission of theologians and scientists which had concluded that the Church's traditional teaching was based on bad science and was outdated. It came not long after the Second Vatican Council which had turned the Roman Catholic world upside down, abolishing the Latin mass and seeking to take the faith out of the cloisters and into the real world in which its founder had moved 2,000 years before. Humanæ Vitæ seemed a throwback to a pre-conciliar epoch.

The throwing back has continued ever since. The recent encyclical, Evangelium Vitæ focused on abortion and euthanasia. But by reiterating the ban on contraception yet again as part of a "seamless web" of the inviolability of human life, the Pope dug the Catholic Church still deeper into a position which perplexes many in the Church and secular society. Few people think abortion is an unreservedly good thing; most of those who advocate it regard it as merely the lesser of evils. On euthanasia, most people can see both sides of a difficult argument. But they cannot square the ban on contraception with what they see around them in the real world.

It is a world which Pope John Paul II clearly sees differently. All around he sees a "veritable culture of death." He writes: "This culture is actively fostered by powerful cultural, economic and political currents which encourage an



Standing firm in his time warp

The Catholic Church has revised key doctrines in the past. But not this Pope, says Paul Valley

idea of society excessively concerned with efficiency... it is possible to speak in a certain sense of a war of the powerful against the weak... A person who, because of illness, handicap or, more simply, just by existing, compromises the well-being or life-style of those who are more favoured tends to be looked upon as an enemy to be resisted or eliminated. In this way, a kind of conspiracy, against life is unleashed.

It is a dark world-view: apocalyptic, millenarian and almost Manichaean in its insistence on the polarity of good and evil. Not for the Pope much talk of "reading the signs of the times" through which Vati-

can II saw the manifestations of God at work in the positive phenomena of contemporary society. It is a view which compounds the difficulties of the past two decades which have seen an erosion of the authority of the papacy among Catholics and of the Church in the secular world.

It is not, of course, the first time that the Church has found itself in such a position. For centuries it persisted, albeit with increasing embarrassment, with the view that interest rates were a bad thing and slavery was quite accept-

able. The dislike of interest had its roots in the notion of usury. To the Church, it meant not excessive interest rates but any interest rates at all. The prohibition stemmed from the Old Testament injunctions that it was a sin to oppress the poor by charging interest on a loan. There was sense in it when loans were made to the poor forced to borrow for subsistence.

The philosophy was clear. Money, said Aristotle, is barren: it can't breed more money. It was, said

Aquinas, a fungible, something which is destroyed in the process of using it. You could not use it for any other purpose than a means of exchange. Along came capitalism — when money was used for investment — but the Church could not find the philosophical framework to adapt.

Eventually, according to Fr. Jack Mahoney, professor of business ethics at the London Business School, the scholastics and casuists came up with an answer, of sorts: "They said: you can't charge a fee equivalent to

interest for the risk involved in the loan and for the loss of alternative opportunities for using the money. The Church never said: 'We were wrong. But it began to say, eventually, that conditions are different.'

Something similar happened with slavery, on which the Gospels say nothing but which St. Paul had seen no need to challenge and which the Church was defending as late as 1866.

There were those who

thought we would have only to endure a similar fallow period for the ban on contraception to evaporate. Paul VI had seemed embarrassed by his own decision, prompted largely by a fear of the conservative backlash that would follow if he lifted the ancient ban on contraception, as everyone expected.

The subsequent insistence that contraception and abortion are indivisible contains lots of hidden agendas. The science of the subject — which now reveals conception, fertilisation, implantation and genetic encodement as a process rather than a single event — is more complex than the Pope's black and white statements allow. But John Paul II's decrees.

though never pronounced as infallible, have been more concerned with papal authority than with science. There is much talk that he is trying to establish a "creeping infallibility" by sheer repetition. He has striven for an ethics of control as opposed to an ethics of responsibility.

Not everyone sees the result as a bad thing. "Many Catholics no longer accept papal pronouncements as being automatically right. People are now making more mature moral judgements themselves," says John Marshall, emeritus professor of neurology at London University who was a member of Paul VI's original commission.

Others are less happy. "The Church is seen as so demonstrably out of touch on this," says Ian Linden of the Catholic Institute for International Relations. "That people do not take seriously what is to say about arms control, business ethics or the unfair distribution of resources in the world."

What are the options for the Church? The usury strategy of casuistry and the slavery option of allowing contraception to become a dead letter both seem increasingly impossible with every new statement of the present incumbent of St. Peter's chair. A straightforward shift in policy is unthinkable.

"What we need," said one of Europe's most prominent moral theologians, diplomatically asking not to be named, "is a simple and humble acknowledgement from the Pope: 'Brothers and sisters, I have erred.' It would be a most beneficial conclusion."

A third option might be, in the words of another wary eminent Churchman, "to kick it into eschatological touch by saying this is a counsel of perfection — like saying, sell all you have and give it to the poor. It's an ideal that normal people might aspire to but not attain. But we won't get that until we have a Pope who does not view the world in such a negative way" — which is the ecclesiastical equivalent, of course, of waiting for the traffic lights to change.

The Independent.

Meeting studies projects, funding

(Continued from page 1)

preparation for a broader workshop to be held in Amman in late April. That conference will include regional experts as well as the private sector since concrete projects and related feasibility studies with private sector participation are expected to be reviewed at the forum.

The workshop is also part of Jordan's preparations for the Amman economic summit to be held in October. Mr. Quteishat was quoted as saying by the Associated Press that Monday's meeting focused on "fast-track" projects in energy, telecommunication and transport in the Jordan Rift Valley.

He said American businessmen presented several proposals for financing for some of the projects. He did not elaborate.

In comments to journalists,

Mr. Quteishat noted that some of the projects in the Jordan Valley development plan were classified as "fast-track" projects that can be implemented without a high degree of feasibility studies.

"We are trying to initiate some of these projects with whatever funding is directed to the Jordan Rift Valley," he said. "These projects include energy, transport and communications."

"Bridges, for example, are fast-track projects," said the official, and described the proposals for financing presented by American businessmen as non-conventional.

Referring to the seminar coming up this month, Mr. Quteishat said: "We have two weeks now before the three sides will decide on specifying fast-track projects."

Jane B. Buchmiller, economic officer at the Jordan,

Syria, Lebanon and Palestinian affairs office at the U.S. State Department, said:

"There is a lot of private sector interest in the Jordan Rift Valley. You can see a lot of genuine interest in finding mechanisms for financing various development projects."

The American official emphasised the need to speed up work. "We are interested in achieving progress before the Amman economic summit on October, said Ms. Buchmiller. "The more private sector activity that is going on prior to the Amman summit the more projects getting under way, the more results and the more deals achieved."

Elihu Rosenthal, an expert in water-related issues who led the Israeli team to the discussions, said: "We are here to familiarise ourselves with project funding issues and problems in the way of achieving such funding."

In another meeting held at Aqaba on Tuesday, Egyptian, Israeli, Jordanian and American officials discussed environmental protection and exploiting maritime resources.

Dureid Mahasneh, head of the Aqaba Ports Corporation, told Jordan Television that the four parties decided to set up a U.S.-financed fish farm in the Red Sea.

The farm will be designed in a way that would protect Aqaba's coral reefs, a key tourist attraction, he said.

The meeting continues in Aqaba until Thursday and moves to Israel's Eilat port next week.

Iran

(Continued from page 1)

150 kilometres west of Tehran last August left at least six dead, dozens injured and caused widespread damage.

Violence broke out there after a government proposal to create a new province with Ghazvin as the capital was narrowly defeated in the Iranian parliament.

Inhabitants of Akbar Abad said they were shocked by Tuesday's violence. "A revolution has just taken place in Akbar Abad," a youth told AFP, while another described the riots as "a second Ghazvin."

Crown Prince accepts award

(Continued from page 1)

strumental in the establishment of several organisations dedicated to humanitarian and welfare work, including the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues.

Care International was established 50 years ago to bring emergency relief supplies to the people of Europe and Asia following World War II. Today Care International describes itself the largest non-profit making, non-sectarian, non-governmental humanitarian organisation in the world.

West Bank and Gaza Strip within two to three months, parliament officials said.

"Our economy could get by totally without Palestinians in two to three months, all we would have to do is slightly increase the number of work permits to foreigners," Mr. Rabin told parliament's defence and foreign affairs committee.

"The government has not however taken this decision because it takes into account the economic situation of the Palestinians," the premier added.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Monday that Israel could get by without Palestinian labour from the

leading Palestinian human rights groups has been virtually shut down and its director has been sacked after it criticised Mr. Arafat's self-rule authority.

Raji Surani, head of the Gaza Rights and Law Centre, was fired this week by the organisation's board which cited "professional reasons."

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U.S.: Iraq is making weapons

(Continued from page 1)

Iraq had failed to account for imported material that could be used to make biological weapons.

The U.N. committee is expected to issue a negative report next week on Iraq's disarmament efforts, especially regarding biological weapons, spoiling Baghdad's chances to have a U.N. oil embargo lifted, U.N. diplomats said.

Swedish diplomat Rolf Ekeus, who heads the special U.N. committee, is scheduled to present his report to the U.N. Security Council around April 10.

His spokesman Tim Trevan said Monday that "nothing has changed" since Mr. Ekeus reported Feb. 28 that 17 tonnes of bacterial culture that could be used to make biological weapons had gone missing in Iraq.

crossing these passages. Pointing out that Royal Jordanian and El Al are cooperating in marketing their services in the U.S., he said: "Royal Jordanian is flying over Israel's skies and we look forward to the day El Al will fly over Jordan on its way to new destinations."

There are 11 member nations and between them they operate in 61 countries.

Mr. Fraser became chairman of Care Australia in 1987 and president of Care International in 1990.

Mr. Fraser, on behalf of the international aid agency, addressed the Crown Prince saying: "We join with you in the hope that people worldwide, understanding that the recognition of our common humanity is the key to the future stability and happiness of this region and the world as a whole, Care International applauds supports and commends your vision."

Most wild game died during the anarchy and slaughter that followed the killing of President Juvinal Habyarimana last April.

Those that escaped death fled to neighbouring Tanzania. At least 85,000 hectares of the Akagera park and the neighbouring Domaine de Chasse (hunting reserve) in north-east Rwanda have been redesignated by the new government as ranching land, says Environment Minister Jean Nayinzira.

More land will follow if needs of the returnees so dictate, adds Jacques Bihogazara, minister of rehabilitation.

The Rwandan government, which took power last year after ousting the former Hutu-led regime, has begun a programme to open up its last frontier, the Akagera, to minority Tutsi pastoralists who have heeded its call to return home.

Thousands of Tutsis who fled into exile when the Tutsi Kingdom in Rwanda was overthrown in 1959 have already returned. Large areas formerly cultivated by the majority Hutu people are now taken over by Tutsi and their cattle.

The northern end of the park, which occupies a tenth of the small Central African country torn apart by genocide last year, is speckled with bandas (huts) covered in blue plastic sheeting.

"It is terrible, the beautiful park has gone, and we will never be able to get it back," a government minister said.

The record book at the Kagitumba border post shows over 400,000 people and 550,000 cattle have crossed from Uganda to Rwanda since last May.

A U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) survey estimates that almost 200,000 of the returnees and their cattle have settled in the park, where they roam the Savannah and battle against drought and diseases that threaten their herds.

Mr. Nayinzira is sceptical about the experiment. "We are trying to be open and flexible and contribute to solving the problem of returnees but this is land that has never been settled, for good reasons," he told Reuters.

"There is tsetse (the fly that causes sleeping sickness fatal to cattle), foot-and-mouth disease, and malaria. The land can be destroyed very easily. There are only little pockets that can support agriculture. In the dry season people will naturally move into the wetter interior," he said.

Mr. Nayinzira says ranching was once attempted south of the Akagera in the 1980s but was abandoned when many cattle died of sleeping sickness. He has little confidence, despite modern disease control methods, the new scheme will be more successful.

Mr. Bihogazara, however, says the park will be able to support many of the two million Tutsis he expects to return to Rwanda.

"By using modern methods these people can live here. Everyone appreciates the difficulties, but we must use the land we have favourably because we live in a small country. Unfortunately 90 per cent of Rwanda's land is unplanned and thus under-

Game gives way to man, in Rwanda reserve

By Julian Bedford
Reuters

KARANGAZI, Rwanda

The lions, herds of buck, chimpanzees and zebra that were once seen in Rwanda's famed animal reserve have long disappeared.

The wilderness — behind a sign that reads "welcome to Akagera National Park: Animals take precedence" — now houses hundreds of thousands of cattle.

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Ross due in Mideast today

(Continued from page 1)

over security arrangements to accompany a possible Israeli withdrawal on the Golan Heights.

"The talks are concentrating on security measures but we have not yet found a magic formula," Mr. Rabin told parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee.

"The problem remains the issue of equality," in arrangements on the two sides of the border, he added.

Syria is calling for parallel security arrangements which Israel has opposed arguing it is a much smaller country.

Mr. Rabin told deputies that Israel had dropped a demand that Syria cut its armed forces because a similar demand was not made of Egypt when it signed a peace treaty with the Jewish state in 1979.

"We haven't called for a reduction by the Syrians, for the rule in the Middle East is the precedent," he said.

Israel had, however, proposed striking a peace deal with Lebanon as a step towards building confidence with Damascus, Mr. Rabin said. But Syria, the main foreign power-broker in Lebanon where it has 35,000 troops, refused.

He urged Damascus to block Hizbollah guerrilla attacks from South Lebanon on northern Israel, which was hit by a rocket barrage on Friday that killed one Israeli and wounded nine.

The attack came in retaliation for an Israeli helicopter rocket attack which killed a Hizbollah leader.

But Damascus threatened Tuesday to take action against "Israeli aggression" in Lebanon saying it would "strongly support Lebanon with all its means to enable it to repel" Israel, which occupies a strip of South Lebanon.

The government daily Tishrin said: "Syria, which has assisted Lebanon through the toughest circumstances, will not stand idle with its hands tied behind its back if Israeli aggression against South Lebanon continues."

"Lebanese resistance is a natural reaction" to Israel's occupation, Tishrin said.

Tishrin said that attacks on South Lebanon were designed to "impose on Lebanon Israeli conditions" and separate the Syrian and Lebanese tracks of the peace process.

It said these tactics were "complicating the chances of achieving a just and permanent peace in the region."

Iran

(Continued from page 1)

150 kilometres west of Tehran last August left at least six dead, dozens injured and caused widespread damage.

Violence broke out there after a government proposal to create a new province with Ghazvin as the capital was narrowly defeated in the Iranian parliament.

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Chevron seeks expansion of Kuwait ties

KUWAIT (R) — American oil giant Chevron said Monday it wanted to expand business with Kuwait and believed more oil remained to be discovered in the Gulf emirate.

"I expressed Chevron's interest in further developing the association between Kuwait and Chevron," the company's overseas petroleum president Richard Matzke told Reuters after talks with Oil Minister Abdul Mohsen Al Mudej.

"Large areas of Kuwait have not been explored and

I'm sure there must be potential (for further oil discoveries), especially in the north," he said.

There was also further room for expanding Kuwait's production capacity, he added. "Some countries produce 10 per cent of their reserves annually, and in Kuwait's case that would be an extraordinary level," he said.

"With the intensity of oil in southern Kuwait, there's a reserve base here that's only being marginally produced," he added.

Most of Kuwait's 95 billion barrels of crude oil are in fields in southern Kuwait. Kuwait pumps two million barrels per day (b/d) of crude. Production capacity is 2.5 million b/d.

Kuwait wants to develop new oilfields, financing the work partially with cash from foreign companies who in return would be granted a form of participation, probably either a stake in production revenue or some kind of service fee.

Big international oil companies have shown strong interest. Industry analysts say B.P. and Chevron could be strong competitors for the work because they both have technical service records with KOC that have given them close knowledge of the fields.

"Chevron has the kinds of technologies that the further exploration of Kuwait would need," Mr. Matzke said.

Asked whether Chevron would prefer a production

stake or a service agreement, Mr. Matzke replied without elaborating that Chevron's core business involved major capital investment, not fees from service arrangements.

Mr. Matzke, on a two-day visit, also met KOC Chairman Khaled Al Falaj to review Chevron's technical services agreement, adding he understood KOC had assigned jobs for 27 Chevron experts, about half of whom were already in Kuwait.

Chevron engineers and scientists are helping state-owned oil producer Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) modernise technology used to manage its large Burgan oilfield under a 3-1/2 year technical service agreement signed in 1994.

Kuwait has a similar agreement with British Petroleum (B.P.) signed in 1992. B.P. has more than 25 experts in Kuwait at present and expects to have about 35 to 40 here by the end of the year.

Qatar to supply ammonia to Indian firms

DOHA (R) — Qatar signed contracts to supply two Indian firms with 200,000 tonnes of liquid ammonia a year, a Qatari official has said.

A Qatari General Petroleum Corp. (QGPC) official told Reuters the contract to supply liquid ammonia to Southern Petrochemical Company and Fertilisers and Chemical Corporation of Travancore Ltd. were signed in New Delhi.

The official said each of the companies would take 100,000 tonnes over the long-term but he gave no further details.

He said the contract meets 20 per cent of India's total annual ammonia imports, 90 per cent of Southern Pet-

rochemical's needs and 40 per cent of fertiliser and chemical's.

It was signed by Faisal Al Suweidi, general manager of the Qatari Fertilisers Company, which is 75 per cent owned by QGPC and 25 per cent by Norway's Norsk Hydro.

Qatar, which has the world's third largest gas reserves, is building two liquefied natural gas (LNG) projects and is discussing a third.

Jaher Al Marri, vice-chairman and director-general of QGPC, told Reuters last week they would discuss gas sales with India and a final agreement with China for Qatari LNG.

U.N. survey: Kazakhstan biggest draw for Western investors

GENEVA (R) — Oil-rich Kazakhstan is attracting more long-term foreign investment than any other country in the former Soviet Union or eastern Europe, according to a new United Nations survey.

The report, by the U.N.'s Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), said Kazakhstan had attracted more than \$46 billion in foreign investment commitments over the last five years, or 39 per cent of the region's total. Russia had attracted \$36.5 billion of investments, accounting for 31 per cent of the \$117.8 billion committed to long-term projects with lifespans of up to 40 years. Shorter-term investments

were a different story. The ECE said Hungary and Poland accounted between them for more than half of the \$17.2 billion in "initial investment" — projects during which the funds are spent in the first four years.

The largest long-term investor by far in the region was the United States. U.S. companies have committed almost \$67 billion to long-term and almost \$6 billion to near-term projects, the ECE said.

Turkey was the second long-term investor, with \$15.2 billion committed to major projects. Germany, at \$8.1 billion, and Britain, at almost \$5 billion, lead the field from western Europe.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHMEISANI TELEPHONE: 660170 / 662170			
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 04/04/1995			
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK PLC	60	17740	196.000 195.500
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK / NEW	22600	103983	4.670 4.610
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK / NEW	4977	22297	4.590 4.500
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	5050	7249	1.450 1.450
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	1350	3674	2.660 2.640
THE HOUSING BANK	4750	29602	6.240 6.230
JORDAN KUNAT BANK	6902	20022	2.900 2.920
JORDAN GULF BANK	22950	31607	1.250 1.420
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	26485	102603	2.960 3.280
BUSINESS BANK	3750	9625	2.500 3.500
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	9500	34522	2.710 2.710
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT	43400	53229	1.250 1.240
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	26100	37232	1.390 1.460
BANKS SECTOR	176874	468384	INDEX NUMBER: 165.12
			CHANGE: -0.19%
ARABIAN SEAS INSURANCE	2000	3700	1.850 1.850
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	23900	62800	2.610 2.630
DELTA INSURANCE	900	1160	2.210 2.220
INSURANCE SECTOR	26400	67560	INDEX NUMBER: 135.93
			CHANGE: +0.09%
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER / NEW	37180	11863	1.560 1.560
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER / NEW	29200	60807	1.560 1.560
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	62941	465124	7.040 7.390
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS / NEW	5934	42191	6.770 7.110
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	5950	13411	2.270 2.270
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	4350	4488	1.060 1.030
MACHINERY EQUIP. REPAIRING & MAINTENANCE	1050	714	1.680 1.680
JORDAN PAPER FOUNDATION / ARAB	500	6200	10.500 10.400
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODORE HOTELS	52341	135723	2.580 2.620
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	100	335	3.350 3.350
SERVICES SECTOR	179596	729909	INDEX NUMBER: 143.13
			CHANGE: +0.13%
ATTACHED CONST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	500	585	1.190 1.170
THE JORDAN CONST. FACTORIES	25263	77300	3.060 3.060
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	290	2726	9.450 9.400
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	6656	22969	2.650 3.750
THE JORDAN WOODEN KILLS	10717	3700	7.900 7.900
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	6950	28632	4.160 4.120
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	250	1978	5.650 5.650
THE JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING	1650	2915	2.710 2.700
RAVIA INDUSTRIES	1000	2495	2.490 2.490
DAR AL DANA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	106	838	7.900 7.900
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	9700	9021	1.940 1.940
ARAB ALUMINIUM INDUSTRIES	5750	40295	7.000 7.000
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	96350	66554	1.700 1.700
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	9750	14386	1.480 1.490
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	5450	12287	2.200 2.310
JORDAN SOFTWOOD INDUSTRIES	2250	2655	1.210 1.190
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MACHINERY	6750	4443	1.700 1.690
JORDAN SULPHUR-CHEMICALS	4700	7997	1.640 1.720
ARAB CENTER FOR PETRO. & CHEMICALS	655	1489	2.240 2.240
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	3950	12913	2.580 3.520
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	12440	2502	2.070 2.040
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	211037	428178	INDEX NUMBER: 122.15
			CHANGE: +0.21%
GRAND TOTAL	593907	1704131	INDEX NUMBER: 145.95
			CHANGE: +0.08%
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET : 258912			
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET : 315448			

Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar to International Markets

Currency	New York Close 4/4/95	Tokyo Close 4/4/95
Sterling Pound	1.6190	1.6095
Deutsche Mark	1.3722	1.3678
Swiss Franc	1.1220	1.1161
French Franc	4.8145	4.8216
Japanese Yen	86.13	85.26
European Currency Unit	1.3300	1.3243

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.87	6.06	6.55	6.56
Sterling Pound	6.12	6.21	6.75	7.23
Deutsche Mark	4.37	4.42	4.50	4.75
Swiss Franc	3.18	3.18	3.25	3.39
French Franc	7.50	7.50	7.12	6.47
Japanese Yen	1.65	1.62	1.50	1.50
European Currency Unit	6.37	6.46	6.74	6.84

Precious Metals

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	292.85	7.60	Silver	5.33	0.109

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6839	0.6850
Sterling Pound	1.1022	1.1077
Deutsche Mark	0.4987	0.5012
Swiss Franc	0.6098	0.6128
French Franc	0.1424	0.1437
Japanese Yen	0.7936	0.7976
Dutch Guilder	0.4454	0.4476
Swedish Krona	0.0296	0.0298
Italian Lira	0.0296	0.0298
Belgian Franc	0.0296	0.0298

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7960	1.8000
Lebanese Lira	0.041845	0.042335
Saudi Riyal	0.1818	0.1827
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3170	2.3700
Qatari Riyal	0.1844	0.1878
Egyptian Pound	0.1300	0.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7468	1.7740
UAE Dirham	0.1854	0.1868
Greek Drachma	0.2730	0.3250
Cypriot Pound	1.4655	1.5625

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3692/72	1.3764/74	1.5416/26	1.1292/02	28.29/33	4.8274/24	1721.8/6.8	86.35/45	7.3875/75	6.1770/90	5.4540/90	\$1.6110/20	391.60392.10
One sterling													
One ounce of gold													

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Ballroom dancing could become Olympic sport

MONTE CARLO (AP) — Get out your dancing shoes. Ballroom dancing could be on the way to becoming an Olympic sport.

The executive board of the International Olympic Committee granted provisional recognition Monday to ballroom dancing and surfing, the first step toward possible inclusion on the summer Olympic programme.

The IOC gave recognition to the International Dance Sports Federation and the International Surfing Association. IOC director general Francois Carrard said the recognition can become final after a two-year trial period.

Ballroom dancing and surfing join 17 other sports which are recognised by the IOC but are not on the Olympic programme. The others include korfball, alpinism, orienteering, rollerskating, trampolining, golf, karate, netball, water skiing and squash.

"When seeking recognition they are aiming for ultimate inclusion on the programme," Carrard said.

While the idea of ballroom dancing as an Olympic sport might provoke some snickers, Carrard noted that many people dismissed ice dancing as a sport 20 years ago before it became an Olympic event.

"Some members said they were totally opposed to ballroom dancing but have since changed their view on this," Carrard said.

"From a sports point of view, in terms of physical activity and training,

it's comparable to other sports and events like ice dancing and synchronized swimming."

★Olympics on internet: The IOC is hopping on the information super-highway.

The executive board said Monday the IOC will soon be linked to what director general Francois Carrard called the "wild world of internet."

By June, the IOC will be a server on the worldwide computer network. Users will have access to historical information on the IOC, the international federations and the games themselves.

"There's a lot of information on the Olympic movement already disseminated on the internet by uncontrolled private individuals," Carrard said. "It's necessary for us to be present on the scene."

"We are fulfilling a growing need. Hundreds of millions of people are clicking on the internet and looking for information. We are convinced the internet is an essential part of the community, not for tomorrow but for today."

★Nearing 200: The IOC executive board gave provisional recognition to the African nation of Guinea-Bissau, bringing to 197 the number of countries in the Olympic movement.

The IOC has set a limit of 10,000 athletes and 5,000 officials for the Atlanta Games.

Federations complain to Atlanta organisers

Atlanta Olympic organisers heard complaints from international sports federations Tuesday about housing, accreditation and test events.

The issues were raised by members of the association of summer Olympic international federations in a meeting with Billy Payne, president of the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG).

Payne said some federation president voiced their objection to ACOG's plans to house about 1,000 officials in university dormitories during next year's centennial games.

"We told them we would continue to work and reach a solution, but hotels are a very scarce commodity in and around the metropolitan area," Payne said. "We must have these officials together in order to transport and feed them."

"We are going to keep working on it," he said. "There are a lot of hotel rooms, a lot of deposits to be paid. The story unfolds literally every day...we're doing the best we can do. They won't be disappointed in the end."

Payne said the housing problem is a reflection of how popular the games will be.

"Everybody wants to come to the centennial games," he said. "We may have underestimated the response of people wanting to come to these games. It's overwhelming."

ing. Payne said some federations — boxing and judo in particular — were unhappy that their sports were not included in this summer's schedule of test events in Atlanta.

ACOG sports director Dave Maggard said Atlanta experts would instead travel to boxing and judo events to test the timing, scoring and results systems.

"This is not a major problem," Maggard said. "This does not affect our readiness for the games. We will have more than enough test events to test our ability to put on the games."

In addition, federations reiterated their request for a larger number of accreditation and tickets for opening and closing ceremonies than offered by ACOG.

"We responded we will follow the Olympic charter," Payne said.

Despite the complaints, Payne said relations with the federations remain positive. "Inevitably there's a little rub about how you allocate resources that are available to us, but these are our friends, so we expect them to give us constructive criticism and they do," he said.

"I told them, 'don't be prepared to be disappointed with these games because you're not going to be,'" he said. "You'll be in a very small minority if you think you're going to be disappointed because these are

going to be what we said they were going to be: the best games ever."

On another matter, Payne said there is still no final agreement on the details of the track and field schedule for the games.

Maggard said he would meet with International Amateur Athletic Federation officials this week to work on the schedule but said the programme would essentially be the same one as in Barcelona in 1992.

The timing of the men's marathon has been in dispute. Some athletes and officials have complained of the potential dangers of Atlanta's heat and humidity, but Maggard said the IAAF has made clear it prefers to run the marathon as its traditional time — in late afternoon to coincide with the closing ceremony.

Earlier, ACOG officials gave the executive board of the International Olympic Committee a first look at the torch that will light the Olympic flame.

"I can say they were very pleased with what they saw," Payne said.

The torch will be formally unveiled on Thursday in Athens and Atlanta.

Payne also gave the IOC a general progress report on Olympic preparations.

"We reported as we always do that we're on time, on schedule and on budget," he said. "Everybody's tired of hearing that except us."

Bright prospects await Jordan Equestrian Federation

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Over the past years, the Kingdom's equestrian team has mainly relied on a limited number of competitors whose names have always been associated with the sport — mainly Her Royal Highness Princess Haya, Hani Bisharat and Ra'ad Naser.

However, a young lineup of dedicated competitors is already emerging and officials and veterans can rest assured that someday they can confidently pass the torch knowing that others will hopefully best represent the country.

At a press conference chaired by Her Royal Highness Princess Alia, the Jordan Equestrian Federation (JEF) Tuesday announced that their most recent participations in tournaments in Dubai and Syria had witnessed exceptional results especially by the participating junior members of the team.

In the Wafa' Tournament dedicated to the memory of the late Basel Al Assad, himself an enthusiast of the sport and captain of the Syrian team, Jordan's Hani Bisharat and Ra'ad Naser, clinched first and third places in the Grand Prix, while the junior members of the team, competing abroad



for the first time surprised onlookers when they rode impressively against older, more experienced participants from Lebanon, Germany, Italy, Qatar and Syria.

Senior team member Hani Bisharat said: "The Jordanian team did better than expected. Actually we were overwhelmed by the results. I'm very hopeful for the future."

Similarly in the Dunhill Competition in Dubai, Jordan's Naser and Bisharat obtained sixth and eighth places respectively in the Grand Prix in which 40

competitors took part.

The upcoming events on the JEF's agenda will be an endurance race in Tadmur, Syria April 28-30; a national horse show aimed at qualifying horses to take part in international shows; a possible regional competition sponsored by Royal Jordanian; the Aqaba Equestrian Competition in November in addition to the annual Arabian Horse Show held at the Royal Stables which includes a show jumping competition, an endurance race and the horse show.

China's swimmers in first contest since mass doping

BEIJING (AFP) — China's world-class swimmers will compete for the first time since the mass drug-test failures of last year's Asian Games, at the national championships which start Wednesday.

Notably absent from the six-day event at Baoding, near Beijing, will be seven top swimmers and five coaches banned after failing drug tests in Hiroshima, Japan, in October.

The organisers are expected to highlight their new battle against drugs to counter some of the international condemnation over the doping scandal, sporting sources said.

Organisers said Le Jingyi, world recordholder in the women's 50m and 100m freestyle, and He Chong, world champion for the 100m and 200m backstroke, should be present in Baoding. But their coaches, Zhou Ming and Wang Lin, will not.

Zhou and Wang were among the five coaches whose one year suspensions over drug taking were announced last week by the Chinese sports authorities.

Players, officials outraged over ruling on Seles attacker

AMELIA ISLAND, Florida (R) — Fellow tennis players and officials of the WTA Tour were outraged on Monday upon learning of a new German court ruling allowing the attacker of superstar Monica Seles to continue walking free.

"It's beyond my understanding how you can stah a person and get away with it," said the ninth-ranked Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria. Seles's opponent when Guenter Parbce stabbed Seles in the back on April 30, 1993, in Hamburg, Germany.

"It's not a question that he ruined Monica's career. It's that he stabbed someone." A regional court in Hamburg upheld a local court verdict that Parbce would only serve a two-year suspended sentence — in other words, that he would walk free.

Seles was sitting during a changeover in a quarter-final match against Maleeva when the then 38-year-old Parbce, an unemployed lathe operator, attacked the world number one.

Seles, who became a U.S. citizen last March, has not played professional tennis since the stabbing incident and lives a very private life in Sarasota, Florida.

Maleeva, speaking at the \$430,000 Bausch Lomb Championships at Amelia Island, said her memories of that fateful day in Hamburg still stay with her, but have faded some.

"It was definitely traumatic for me, but it's been a long time and I can almost forget about it," Maleeva said. "I didn't ever have nightmares, but I was worried and shocked. Sometimes, I still think about it, but it's kind of a blur."

Fourth-ranked Spaniard Conchita Martinez, the reigning Wimbledon champion and last week's Family Circle Magazine Cup titlist, was appalled by the German court's decision.

"I think it is ridiculous because thousands of people saw him stab Monica in the back," Martinez said. "He's sick and dangerous and the fact that he is free is very bad news. Anyone who can do a thing like that has to be punished."

Since the original ruling in 1993, the WTA Tour has had an indefinite ban against Parbce attending tour events.



Mary Pierce will be out of action with a groin injury

"It defies logic that a person can commit a premeditated assault witnessed by millions of people around the world without being sentenced to jail time," said Anne Person Worcester, chief executive officer of the WTA Tour.

"The WTA Tour firmly believes that the regional court has perpetuated the injustice in this case and that the defendant should have been sentenced to significant prison time."

Pam Shriver, a well-known player and former president of the WTA Tour, was horrified that the German court

didn't reverse the original ruling.

"The first time the ruling was a shock," said Shriver, who has spoken with Seles only once since she was stabbed. "This second time was less of a shock, but it just doesn't make sense. A suspended sentence and no real jail time just doesn't make sense."

Shriver was concerned about Seles's emotional healing process.

"Let's hope that maybe there's closure on it, and with closure, that the best thing that could happen is Monica

can put it behind her and get on with life," Shriver said.

"And hopefully, getting on with life means competing again because there is no doubt that that's what she's best at."

Last month, Seles's father Karol wrote an article in the New York Times discussing how the stabbing incident has affected his daughter and kept her away from competition.

In the article, Karol Seles wrote: "That Monica will return to tennis is only a dream so far, but I hope that in the near future the dream will become a reality."

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Nantes protest over mistaken identity

PARIS (AFP) — French league leaders Nantes have lodged a protest with the federation over last Sunday's match at Lens which ended with three of their players sent off and a goal disallowed in a 1-1 draw. "The sanctions bore no resemblance to what happened on the pitch," said Nantes general manager Robert Budzinski. "There were two blatant errors." Michel Vautrot, president of the referees' commission, admitted that referee Claude Colombo had sent off the wrong Nantes player in the incident which sparked off six minutes of confusion at the end of the match. Jean-Michel Charbon, the linesman, identified the wrong Nantes player in an off-the-ball incident.

Yeboah likely to return to Frankfurt

FRANKFURT (AP) — Striker Anthony Yeboah is likely to return from Leeds United to Eintracht Frankfurt now that Eintracht Coach Jupp Heynckes has resigned, the club's manager said Monday. Heynckes resigned Sunday following Friday's 3-0 defeat at home to Schalke 04. Brought at the start of the season with the goal of guiding Frankfurt to the league title, Heynckes failed to bring success to the club, which is now labouring in 13th place in Bundesliga standings. Following a dispute with Yeboah, Heynckes cut the Ghanaian striker from the roster and the player was loaned to Leeds United during the winter break.

Walker signs with Giants

EAST RUTHERFORD (AP) — Now that they have Herschel Walker in the fold, the New York Giants won't have to worry about the loss of Dave Meggett. The 33-year-old Walker signed a 3-year, \$4.8 million contract with the Giants on Monday, less than a week after being released by the Philadelphia Eagles. The deal includes a \$1.9 million signing bonus and a \$500,000 contract for this season, sources close to Walker said. He will be paid \$1.1 million next season and \$1.4 in 1997.

Baresi to transfer to Japan

MILAN (AP) — Franco Baresi, the charismatic captain of Italian and European champion AC Milan, is likely to transfer to Japan in 1996 to finish out his career in the Japanese soccer league, club officials disclosed Monday. Milan's managing director Adriano Galliani said Monday that "Baresi's future is neither in Italy nor in Europe." He suggested that the 34-year-old Italian player, one of the best ever European defenders, may leave Milan for Japan in March 1996. Baresi's

contract with AC Milan expires in June this year. Club sources said the player may extend it through 1996 and leave in March, when the Japanese league begins.

Bo Jackson retires from baseball

ALEXANDRIA, Virginia (AP) — Bo Jackson, once a star in both the NFL and Major League baseball, says he has retired from baseball. The 33-year-old Jackson is quoted in Tuesday's editions of USA Today, as saying he had been thinking about retiring for months as the strike dragged on and he spent more time with his family. "It was great while it lasted," Jackson, a free agent, told the USA Today from his Chicago home. "But it's over now. As of April 3, I'm retired from pro sports." Jackson played in the NFL with the Los Angeles Raiders from 1987-90 before leaving because of a bad hip, which eventually required replacement surgery. During the baseball dispute, Jackson told USA Today he got calls "from five or six clubs. I got to know my family. That looks better to me than any \$10 million contract."

Cantona forced into move

MANCHESTER (AFP) — Troubled Manchester United Star Eric Cantona and his family were given 24 hours to leave their rented home here on Tuesday. The Manchester United player, his pregnant wife Isabelle and their young son have until Wednesday to move out after negotiations broke down for the club to buy the house in the Boothstown area of Greater Manchester. The Cantonas have lived in the modest three-bedroomed house on a quiet estate since last summer and son Raphael attends a local school. United had started negotiating to buy the house for the family after they were served notice to leave by agents acting for the house's owners who is living abroad. But when they failed to reach agreement by the time the lease expired on Sunday, they were given three days to leave.

Germans sail in South African Open

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Third seeded Martin Sinner of Germany easily defeated compatriot Alexander Mronz 7-6 (8-6), 6-3 in Monday's first round of the South African Open tennis tournament. Another German, Joern Renzenbrink, the sixth seed, held on for a tough 7-6 (7-1), 6-7 (4-7), 6-4 victory over Mario Rincon of Colombia, while eighth seed Guillaume Raoux of France swamped Thomas Nydahl of Sweden 6-3, 6-2. The 1.1 million rand (\$310,000) tournament almost was cancelled due to lack of sponsorship and drew none of the world's top-ranked players. Lionel Roux of France, ranked 50th in the world, is the top seed.

Amman Marriott Hotel Receives Award

AT THE recent regional meeting of Marriott's European and Middle Eastern general managers, which was held in Budapest, the Amman Marriott Hotel was organised as the most improved of all Marriott

hotels in the region to revenue and market share.

Receiving the award from Regional Vice-President Karl Kilburg was the Amman Marriott Hotel's General Manager, Mr. Richard Lyon.

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	Tom Hanks In Forrest Gump Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:15, 9:15	Andy Garcia — Mee Ryan In When A Man Loves A Woman Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD '1' Comedian star: Adel Imam — Bakhit & Andadilleh Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00 CONCORD '2' Jean-Claude Van Damme STREET FIGHTER Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:45, 11:00	Musa Hijazin "Sum'a" in the political satire Hi Citizen written and directed by Mohammed Al Shawaq daily on 8:30 p.m. The theatre closes on Monday — Haffa Al Agha in the children's play ★ Sa'di's Return ★	Shows of "Qirbeh Makhzouqa" will be stopped from now until further notice.	Presents: The political satire: AL SALAM YA SALAM at 8:30 p.m. For reservation, please call 625155 The theatre is closed Saturdays & Sundays

Nigeria kicked out of World Youth Championship

ZURICH (AP) — Nigeria, which had tried to organise an African boycott of soccer's world youth championship, was kicked out of the tournament Tuesday by FIFA.

FIFA said the Nigerian Football Association had failed to meet an extended deadline to confirm its team's participation for the April 13-28 tournament. Qatar, the host nation, will take Nigeria's place.

The Nigerian federation has been upset with FIFA since the world governing body moved the tournament,

originally scheduled for March, out of Nigeria because of security and health concerns.

At a weekend meeting of the Confederation of African Football in Cairo, Egypt, Nigerian officials tried to organise a boycott with the two other African qualifiers, Cameroon and Burundi.

CAF responded by withdrawing various administrative personnel from the tournament, but said the three teams would be asked to take part. Cameroon and

Burundi have since confirmed their participation.

FIFA then gave Nigeria a deadline to state its intentions. The deadline was extended twice with no response before FIFA decided to take action.

Nigeria would have been one of the favourites to win the tournament, which is for players under 20. Many of Nigeria's players were on the same team that won the Under-17 World Championship in Japan two years ago.

Kingdom's soccer teams prepare for 1995 season kick off

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Kingdom's sports enthusiasts will not be idle for long, as sports federations soon begin their 1995 season competitions.

Soccer, the country's most popular sport, will have an early start as teams are now putting the finishing touches on their final preparations.

Three of the sport's competitions will kick off this month as the governing body, the Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF) hopes to end all competitions at the end of the year, before the rainy season disrupts the timetable.

The JSF has amended some regulations governing the sport in which 141 teams will be taking part in different divisions.

In an effort to upgrade competition, the federation has once again decided to change the number of teams in the four divisions. The changes will be applicable as of the 1996 season:

★ The first division is now renamed "The Premier League" with 12 teams competing this year. It will include 10 teams as of 1996 as four teams will be relegated while only two will join the prestigious group next season.

★ The 16-team second division will be renamed the first division. Only the top two teams (instead of four) will be promoted to the Premier League while six teams will be relegated, making the first division 14 teams as of 1996.

★ The third division will be renamed second division and will include 24 teams in 1996 instead of the usual 31.



Premier League champions Al Wihdat



Jordan Cup titleholders Al Faisali

★ The fourth division will be renamed third division and is open to new teams in addition to the existing 82 teams.

The 1995 competitions will be held as follows: THE FEDERATION SHIELD: The JSF shield kicks off on April 27 and

Qadissieh and Al Wihdat, while Group 3 includes Al Faisali, Al Ramtha, Al Jalil and Russeifa.

THE CUP WINNERS' CUP: The charity match in which league champions, Al Wihdat, meet Jordan Cup champions Al Faisali is scheduled for mid-June before the Premier League kick off.

THE PREMIER LEAGUE: The top competition will include champions Al Wihdat, Al Hussein, Al Faisali, Al Ramtha, Al Jazireh, Kufroum, Al Arabi, Al Qadissieh, and newcomers, Al Baqaa, Sahab, Al Jalil and Russeifa.

THE JORDAN CUP: Premier League teams as well as first division teams will take part in this knockout competition in which 28 teams will be taking part. They will be divided into four groups with the top team in each group advancing to the final round. The titleholders are Al Faisali.

THE FIRST DIVISION: 16 teams will be taking part with only the top two promoted to the Premier League. The top contenders are Yarmouk, Al Jeel, and Al Karmel in addition to Al Abbasi.

THE SECOND DIVISION: Competition kicks off April 10 with 31 teams divided into six groups.

THE THIRD DIVISION: The biggest number of teams, 82, will be contesting the event.

Wimbledon clamps down on black market tickets

WIMBLEDON (AP) — When officials at the Wimbledon tennis championships said they were going to clamp down on black market tickets, they really meant it.

The All England Club on Monday released a catalog of embarrassing scenarios in which major companies have had important guests turned away at the Wimbledon gates because their tickets were invalid.

In an effort to wipe out a 50-year-old black market in which Wimbledon tickets were bought for astronomical prices, the All England Club in 1990 introduced sweeping new measures that invalidated any ticket purchased from an unauthorised agent or any other unofficial source.

Some of those trying to get in with such tickets have found themselves out of thousands of pounds and with egg on their faces. Among the incidents over the last few years, according to the club:

★ A major British communications company paid 15,000 pounds (\$24,000) for an unofficial corporate hospitality package for 12 guests for the women's final. All of the tickets were invalid and the 12 people turned away, their tickets resold for charity at 4 pounds (\$6.40 each) each.

★ A German business paid more than 50,000 pounds (\$80,000) for 35 centre court

tickets to entertain some of his most esteemed customers. All the tickets were invalid and the group was refused admission.

★ A Japanese businessman paid a ticket agency a 600 pound (\$960) deposit for two tickets. After the tickets failed to arrive, he discovered the agency had gone out of business.

The All England Club said many who have shown up with invalid tickets weren't aware they had been dealing with the black market, but club chief executive Christopher Gorrings said there would be no backing down.

"Our policy has always been to ensure that ordinary tennis-loving members of the public can acquire tickets at a price they can afford," Gorrings said. "The burgeoning black market in Wimbledon tickets made a mockery of our carefully considered pricing and distribution system, because far too many tickets were redirected to those able to afford grossly inflated prices."

"The ticket conditions were introduced to improve this situation. We are committed to continuing these conditions," Gorrings said. "The last thing we want is to cause individuals and companies disappointment, embarrassment or financial loss, and this is very simply avoided by checking ticket validity prior to purchase."

UCLA clinches college basketball title

SEATTLE (AP) — University of California Los Angeles Bruins clinched their 11th men's basketball title by beating Arkansas Razorbacks 89-78 in the National Collegiate Athletics Association's final on Monday.

UCLA forward Ed O'Bannon tied his career best with 30 points and 17 rebounds in leading his team to victory and claiming the honour of the game's outstanding player.

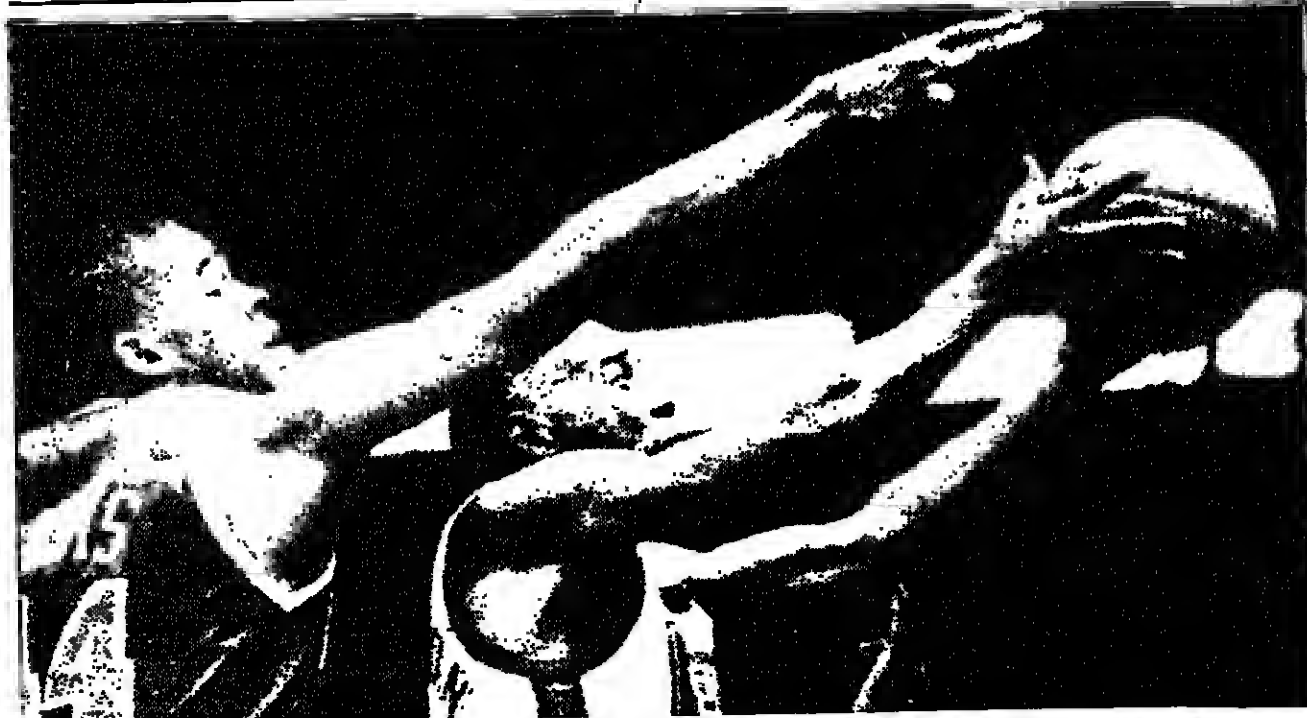
Toby Bailey finished with 26 points and nine rebounds. It was UCLA's first national title in 20 years. The victory capped a 19-game winning streak, the longest in the nation, that gave the team 31-2 for the season.

"It was a long, hard road. I'm glad it's over," O'Bannon said.

It was UCLA's 11th win in 12 championship games, with their only defeat in 1980 against Louisville.

President Bill Clinton, a former Arkansas governor, called Razorbacks coach Nolan Richardson after the team's loss.

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171



New Jersey Nets' Kenny Anderson (right) slips under New York Knicks' Hubert Davis (left) for a layup (APF photo)

ITO comes back; Baiul stays away

DAVOS, Switzerland (AP) — Midori Ito is back. Oksana Baiul's plans are still uncertain.

Ito, the former world champion and 1992 Olympic silver medalist, was the biggest name on a list released Monday of figure skaters who have applied for reinstatement for the world championships and Olympics.

April 1 was the deadline for ineligible skaters to apply via their national federations, for reinstatement to the International Skating Union.

However, the ISU said more names may be added to the list.

Although Ito could make a strong case for being the best women's skater in the world — she's the only one who can reliably nail a triple axel — Baiul was considered the marquee name the ISU needed to compete with the recent deluge of unsanctioned, big-money, made-for-TV skating competitions held mostly in the United States.

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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMMAM HIRSH
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DIG DEEP

When declarer first sees the combined North-South assets, one line seems so obvious that considering any other would be a waste of time.

But there are almost always alternatives, some of which can be investigated at no cost.

The auction was straightforward enough. With a relatively balanced 10 points, there was no reason for North to suppose that an 11-trick contract in a minor would be any better than three no trump.

West led a fourth-best spade, won

to the closed hand with the jack. Declarer could afford to give up the lead just once, so it might seem automatic to pin your hopes on finding a doubleton ace of diamonds with West by leading a diamond to the king. Had South done that, it would have resulted in a two-trick set.

However, there is another way to come to nine tricks. If clubs divide evenly, South can score two spades, three hearts and four clubs while

surrendering the lead just once in hearts.

Since the clubs will break 3-3 some 36 percent of the time, that is a substantial extra chance. So after winning the opening lead declarer plays off the three top clubs. After cashing the fourth club, declarer leads a heart to the ace and returns a heart to force out the king and nine tricks are there.

What if the clubs don't break? Declarer gives up on that line and now goes after diamonds and is no worse off than if a diamond had been led to the king at trick two.

By the way, if you spotted this line, did you take care to win the opening lead with dummy's king of spades to make sure you had an entry to hand to cash the good hearts?

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مناصرة للأمل

Both vulnerable, South deals.
NORTH
♠ K 2
♥ A 4
♦ K 8 7 3 2
♣ 9 7 8

WEST EAST
♠ 8 7 5 4 3 ♠ 10 9 9
♥ 8 3 ♥ K 8 6 5 2
♦ J 5 ♦ A Q
♣ 10 4 2 ♣ J 8 3

SOUTH
♠ A J
♥ Q 10 7
♦ 10 8 4
♣ A K Q 5

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass
Opening lead: Five of ♠

NEWS IN BRIEF

Arab League urges U.N. to allow Libyan flights

CAIRO (AFP) — Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdul Meguid said Tuesday he hoped the U.N. Security Council would allow Libyan pilgrims to break an air embargo and fly to Mecca. "I trust the Security Council will not oppose these trips," Dr. Abdul Meguid said. "The Libyan request to organise air passage to transport Libyan pilgrims (to Saudi Arabia) is legitimate, as it is the performance of a religious duty," he said before leaving Cairo for a week-long visit to London and Paris. Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has threatened to fly pilgrims direct to Mecca on board Libyan Arab Airlines planes in defiance of a U.N. air embargo imposed in 1992. Britain, along with the United States, is the main proponent of the embargo. Saudi Arabia announced Sunday it would welcome pilgrims, "whatever mode of transport they used."

UAE desert soaked with destroyed liquor

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The desert sands were soaked with liquor after the Gulf emirate of Sharjah destroyed thousands of bottles of alcohol in a crackdown. Police said Tuesday. Police used bulldozers to crush more than 6,000 whisky and beer bottles before burying them in the desert. The bottles were seized from shops and cars over the past few months in Sharjah, which bans alcohol. Abu Dhabi, Dubai and other members of the United Arab Emirates allow alcohol for non-Muslims at authorised shops and hotels.

Bahraini hanged in Kuwait for murder

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — A Bahraini convicted of murder was hanged at the central prison in the Kuwaiti capital on Tuesday, the interior ministry said. Mohammad Nejjib Massud was found guilty of stabbing to death an Iranian foreign currency trader in Kuwait City and lost an appeal against the death sentence. He was the fourth person executed in Kuwait since the Gulf war in February 1991. The others were an Iraqi, a stateless Arab and a Kuwaiti national.

Khartoum forum shows split — Tehran

TEHRAN (AFP) — An Iranian newspaper on Tuesday attacked the Islamic conference held in Khartoum saying it resulted in too much rhetoric and not enough deeds. "More rhetoric has been given free rein in the name of Islamic unity for three days, but the 1.2 billion Muslims remain as hopelessly divided as ever," said the English-language Kayhan International, close to Muslim hardliners. "The conference fell short of Islamic aspirations," the daily said, adding that the forum's designation as an Arab and Islamic popular conference "betrayed underlying divisions rather than the sincere urge to unite." The conference which ended Sunday was attended by 300 delegates from 800 countries, including a middle-ranking Iranian delegate. It came out with resolutions opposing peace with Israel and calling for Islamic unity.

Workers accuse Kuwaiti of non-payment

KUWAIT (AP) — A group of Bangladeshi workers has accused a Kuwaiti employer of not paying wages for five months and of providing unhealthy accommodation, the Bangladesh embassy said on Tuesday. An embassy spokesman said the employer was having difficulty in trying to contact the owners of the company, Al Ragad Trading and Contracting Company, to probe complaints set out in a statement the 79 employees delivered to the embassy on Monday. If the firm continued to be "untraceable," the embassy would pursue the matter with Kuwait's labour authorities, he said.

'Miracle goat' slaughtered after threats

SINIRYA (AP) — Palestinians have flocked to this small village by the hundreds in hopes of obtaining a cup of milk from a "miracle" hillie goat, but they will now have to look elsewhere for a cure for impotence and sterility. Farmer Mufed Sheikh slaughtered the goat he called "the father of help" after receiving death threats from the militant group Hamas and Yasser Arafat's Fateh faction. "You are a crook, overcharging people, exploiting them," Mr. Sheikh's 15-year-old son, Saqr, on Tuesday recounted one of the threatening telephone calls his family has received. "Either you kill the goat or we cut your neck. We are from the company of Hamas," Saqr quoted the caller as saying. The male goat which grew a breast had been producing three cups of milk per day. Legend spread throughout the West Bank that the milk could cure impotence and sterility, and hundreds of people came to Sinirya to obtain a cup. Mr. Sheikh initially charged \$50 per cup, but as demand grew, he raised the price to \$500, said his wife, Sara. When the threatening calls began, Mr. Sheikh became afraid and last Thursday slaughtered his prized animal.

Indian sailor dies after saving wife

PORT SAID (R) — An Indian sailor who managed to save his wife from drowning died a few minutes later from a heart attack, doctors at the Mediterranean Port Said harbour said on Tuesday. Port authorities said that G.K. Embrean, 41, was a radio officer on an Indian general cargo ship which arrived in Port Said on Monday. After a tour in the city with his wife, the two went back to the ship. As they were going up the stairs, the wife slipped and fell into the water. Embrean and a group of friends managed to save her but when he went back to his cabin, he suffered a heart attack and died. Doctors at the port said Embrean might have died from the effort and cold war. Owners of the ship said they will fly his body back home.

Kabul University reopens amid rubble

KABUL (AP) — Most of the books in Kabul University's once-impressive library have been burned or were looted. The agricultural faculty has no roof. Soldiers this week uncovered a mass grave just outside the medical faculty. Kabul University, which was part of the frontline during recent fighting, was formally reopened in a ceremony Tuesday after being closed for three years. The cleanup job would not be easy. "We need running water, we need generators, we need an electrical system, we need 5,000 benches and desks, we need computers," Amir Hassanayyar, the university's chancellor, said in an address. The campus has been closed since the Islamic factions ousted a communist government in 1992. The young men who have milled around the halls the past three years were armed with AK-47 assault rifles and grenade launchers. They were more concerned with ducking incoming rounds than lectures.

Sudan rejects call for ceasefire monitors

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan on Tuesday rejected a rebel leader's proposal for international monitors to guarantee the ceasefire in southern Sudan mediated by former President Jimmy Carter. "We consider such a move an intervention in our domestic affairs," Omar Baridu, first secretary in the Foreign Ministry, told reporters in turning down the proposal. John Garang, leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Army, made the proposal last Thursday, saying his troops would cease hostilities in response to Mr. Carter's urging but wanted ceasefire monitors in place. The ceasefire began March 28, but another rebel leader, Riak Machar of the South Sudan Independence Movement, accused government troops of breaking it three days later. Sudan denied it violated the truce.

Israel hands over list of Palestinians for PNA election

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

(Agencies) — Israel on Tuesday handed the Palestinians its population registries in the Gaza Strip, West Bank and East Jerusalem in preparation for self-rule elections to be held in those areas, a Palestinian official said.

Chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat, urban affairs minister in Yasser Arafat's self-rule government, said the lists were described as including all Palestinians over 17 years old but were outdated.

"We found out that there are a lot of errors and we need to canvass (the areas) and confirm these lists," he said.

Dr. Erekat met with Israeli negotiator Yoel Singer in the autonomous Palestinian enclave of Jericho for four hours to prepare for the next round of talks scheduled

April 10 in Cairo.

Both sides reported progress after last week's Cairo session.

But the elections are linked to the more complicated issue of an Israeli withdrawal from West Bank towns, called for in the September 1993 autonomy accord.

Mr. Arafat has demanded that a withdrawal precede elections, but Israel is concerned a pullback will endanger the 140,000 Jewish settlers in the area.

The sides have set July 1 as a target date for reaching accord on a troop redeployment, and there have been reports that Israel could pull out of some towns in coming months.

The sides have agreed to separately elect the head of the self-rule government and a council which would have some legislative powers.

But Dr. Erekat said Tuesday there was still disagreement over Israel's refusal to let Palestinians from East Jerusalem run in the elections.

Israel has agreed, however, let them vote, he said.

Dr. Erekat said Israel also provided the Palestinians with maps of Gaza, the West Bank and Jerusalem on Tuesday.

Dr. Erekat told a press conference after the meeting with Mr. Singer: "The list was not sufficient and I think we need to conduct a new census."

"The (autonomy) agreement calls for the participation of people in East Jerusalem to vote," Mr. Singer said. "Israel is continuing to assist the Palestinian side in terms of elections."

Meanwhile, one of the (Continued on page 7)

Jordan-Israel Armistice Commission replaced by joint military committee

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The 47-year-old Israeli-Jordanian Armistice Commission has been dissolved and replaced by a Jordanian-Israeli military committee which will perform the tasks that used to be undertaken by the commission, an Armed Forces spokesman said Tuesday.

The dissolution of the commission came five months after Jordan and Israel signed a peace treaty, ending their state of war and calling for close cooperation.

"The signing of the treaty rendered the Armistice Commission redundant and it has been dissolved," said the spokesman. "A liaison committee of Jordanian and Israeli military officers has replaced the commission since Jordan and Israel now have direct contacts."

The committee will coordinate visits of Jordanian and Israeli officials as well as United Nations delegates across the border and handle related issues.

The Armistice Commission was set up shortly after the 1948 war. The panel, which included Jordanian, Israeli

and United Nations representatives, addressed issues related to borders and security between Jordan and Israel.

The organisation often sorted out water disputes between the two countries and set out timings and quantities of water allocations from the Yarmouk and Jordan Rivers, according to U.N. sources.

The Armistice Commission played a key role during the Israeli-Jordanian peace negotiations conducted in the Middle East since June 1994 after the two countries reached agreement to shift talks to the region after more than 12 rounds in Washington.

Commission officials from the two sides coordinated the crossings of negotiators to both sides and other related logistics as well as technical problems that came up during the talks, which culminated in the signing of the peace treaty in October.

The United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO) represented the world body in the Armistice Commission, which was set up after talks between Colonel Abdullah Tal, a Jordanian official who headed the Arab forces in the 1948 war,

and Colonel Moshe Dayan, who led the Israeli forces and later became the country's defence minister, and a general from the United Nations.

The Armed Forces spokesman said the dissolution of the commission had no bearing on the presence of a UNTSO office in Amman.

"The UNTSO office here will continue its activities related to the U.N. and it will have nothing to do with issues that concern Israel and Jordan in a bilateral level," said the spokesman.

According to other sources, Jordan and the United Nations General Secretariat are currently discussing the UNTSO role in Jordan. The organisation maintains a presence in Israel and its immediate Arab neighbours.

Officials from the United Nations Development Programme, the umbrella body for all U.N. organisations in Jordan, said they had no information on the discussions.

Brigadier Mansour Abu Rashid, who served as Jordan's chief representative to the Armistice Commission for more than 20 years, will also head the newly-formed liaison committee.

Iraq rules out mediation for two jailed Americans

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq's vice president has ruled out mediation to secure the release of two Americans jailed for illegal entry from Kuwait, the Baghdad Observer newspaper reported Tuesday.

"If there is a country which wants to mediate, it should mediate on the ordeal of 20 million Iraqis who are imprisoned and have no food and no medicine," Mr. Ramadan told the British television network WTN.

The vice president, the text of whose interview was published in the English-language Observer, was referring to the crippling U.N. sanctions in force since Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

"So if a third country mediates on the issue it would not be a creative and a great work," he said, when asked

about U.S. calls for countries such as France, Russia and Turkey to help secure the release of the Americans.

Diplomatic ties between Washington and Baghdad have been broken since the 1991 Gulf war when a U.S.-led military coalition drove Iraq out of Kuwait.

On the U.S. threats of the possible use of force to free the Americans, Mr. Ramadan said: "The Iraqi people and leadership view these American statements with disdain because they are irresponsible and against international law."

"Such American statements are not new. They are the logic of an imperialist state and not the logic of a civilised one which alleges it is defending human rights and security and stability in the world."

Suspects plotted to attack U.S., Saudi targets — Manila

MANILA (AP) — A group of alleged extremists linked to defendants in the World Trade Centre bombing intended to attack U.S. and Saudi Arabian people and property, Philippine officials said Tuesday.

Philippine national police chief Recaredo Sarmiento said the information was gathered from documents seized from six foreign men arrested last Saturday in a Manila suburb.

Police seized guns, explosives, bomb-making material and radical documents and literature from the six — two Jordanians, one Omani, one Syrian and two Palestinians.

Police also raided a house in Balanga, about 50 kilometres west of Manila, early Sunday and seized documents, including names of Filipinos and foreigners recruited by the group.

Interior Secretary Rafael Alunan said the discovery of the group provided the government with "timely and vital information" on the extent of operations of foreign "terrorists" in the Philippines. He said the arrest also "neutralised whatever vicious

plans" the group had against domestic and international targets, including Americans and Saudi Arabians.

A U.S. embassy spokesman said he had no immediate comment. A Saudi Arabian embassy spokesman said his embassy has not yet been informed by the police that Saudis were potential targets.

The six arrested men were charged with illegal possession of firearms and explosives. Government prosecutor Afafe Cajal recommended no bail. They have been on a watchlist of suspects since 1991, officials said.

The six were presented to reporters by Alunan and Sarmiento at the national police headquarters.

As they were led away, one shouted, "We were framed up." Another said, "it was a setup."

Mr. Alunan said the six belong to the Islamic Saturday meeting group whose members are "fanatic followers" of Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, the Egyptian cleric on trial in New York in the 1993 trade centre bombing.

Lee sees trip as triumph over China

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan's

President Lee Teng-hui said on Tuesday his first tour of the Middle East was a diplomatic triumph over China's objections and gave an upbeat assessment of ties with the United States.

Mr. Lee told journalists that \$93 billion in foreign currency reserves made Taiwan an attractive ally and he drew a clear link between the willingness of countries to host him and the direction in which Taiwan's capital flows.

Looking alert despite a long flight, Mr. Lee said his four-day tour of Jordan and the United Arab Emirates would help guarantee this island's energy supplies and would result in greater commercial links.

"The Chinese communists' diplomatic pressure was very large, so under these circumstances our meeting was not done on the surface but ... we took part in talks," Mr. Lee said in a news conference held at Chiang Kai-Shek international airport.

But Mr. Lee conceded that an originally scheduled visit to Israel, as a third leg of his Middle East tour, was cancelled due to pressure Beijing put on Israel.

"Its loss, not ours," he said of the Israel visit.

Mr. Lee described a clear link between the willingness of countries to receive him and the investments which follow his trips, citing a 2.3-fold increase in commerce with South East Asia since he toured there last year.

"In the world's current economic situation cash is very scarce. The Republic of China (Taiwan) has a lot of

strength and has ways of assisting other countries," he said, referring to the central bank's foreign exchange reserves.

"We do not say we will give away money. We want to invest and promote ties," he added.

China and Taiwan have been bitter rivals since Taiwan's ruling Nationalist Party lost a civil war in China and fled to this island in 1949. Mainly because of Beijing's objections, Taipei has formal diplomatic ties with only 29 countries.

Mr. Lee's aspiration to visit the United States remains unrealised because of Washington's concerns over injuries to U.S.-China relations.

But Mr. Lee, who has been invited by his Alma Mater Cornell University and the state of Alaska, was upbeat about the state of ties with the United States.

"The United States people now are supportive of us. Their attitude to the Republic of China is excellent," Mr. Lee said.

"U.S. officials have different opinions but as far as I can tell these opinions may change as time goes by," he added, drawing attention to the fact Taiwan, unlike China, was a democracy.

Diplomatic successes are seen as especially important for Mr. Lee ahead of Taiwan's first-ever presidential elections, slated for March 1996.

Mr. Lee declined on Tuesday to say whether he would run in the elections, despite widespread speculation that he will.

U.S. to continue to press Russia on Iran deal

WASHINGTON (AFP) —

The United States will continue to pressure Russia to scrap a nuclear reactor sale to Iran despite the rebuff received by Defence Secretary William Perry in Moscow, U.S. officials said Tuesday.

White House spokesman Michael McCurry expressed the view Tuesday that Moscow's word was not final.

"Perry was talking about different scenarios that might develop," Mr. McCurry said, suggesting that the administration is working on compromise formulas.

"We said repeatedly we'd continue to press this issue," said a senior State Department official, speaking on condition of anonymity. "It's not off the agenda as far as we are concerned."

The reactor dispute is expected to be raised again during a three-day visit by Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott to Moscow beginning Thursday.

In the second half of April, Secretary of State Warren Christopher will speak to Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, when they meet in New York to prepare the summit between President Bill Clinton and Boris Yeltsin May 9-10 in Moscow.

At this meeting with Mr. Perry on Monday, Russian

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin was inflexible: Russia had no intention of renouncing the billion dollars it will get for building at least two light water reactors in the Gulf port of Bushehr.

The contract surpasses the total U.S. aid to Russia for fiscal 1996.

Having rejected the idea of reducing such aid, as Republicans in Congress have demanded, the Clinton administration appears to have little leverage to persuade Moscow.

The State Department on Monday raised the possibility that Russia could take part in supplying four light water reactors to North Korea in compensation for the loss of its nuclear deal with Iran.

Russia would serve as a sub-contractor under such a scenario. South Korea would supply the reactors, which would be financed mainly by Seoul and Tokyo. The commitment to supply the reactors is a key element of the October 1994 U.S.-North Korea agreement to limit Pyongyang's nuclear programme.

State Department Christine Shelly said Russia was interested in taking part in the North Korean programme and the United States was favourably disposed to its participation.

Algeria boosts security at oilfields; journalist killed

ALGIERS (Agencies) —

The Algerian government has tightened security for the country's economically vital oilfields, creating four zones under military surveillance, as extremists pursued a campaign of sabotage attacks.

Security agents, the army and paramilitary police have been ordered to protect the exclusion zones at Al Oued, Ourgla, Ilizi and Djanez in the Sahara, the Interior Ministry said in a statement reported in the press Tuesday.

The ministry statement, made late Monday, said the only people allowed in and out of the regions would be Algerian and foreign workers in the oil companies and local residents, who would be given passes.

The statement stressed the "strategic importance" of the zones. Oil and gas production accounts for some 95 per cent of foreign earnings for Algeria, which has been gripped in a civil war for the past three years.

The unrest, which has claimed at least 30,000 lives, has largely spared the south where some of the oilfields lie, but the network of pipelines, coastal gas plants and isolated oilwells are potential targets for sabotage.

Several thousand Europeans and Americans work

on the oilfields, which are already watched over by the security forces.

On Oct. 18 last year, the most radical of the extremist factions fighting the regime, the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), attacked an oil site in the eastern Aures region for the first time, decapitating a French and an Italian technician and burning the installations of the Schlumberger company.

Militants stormed a state-run television facility in Western Algeria and broadcast a propaganda tape for 40 minutes, Algerian newspapers reported on Tuesday.

The militants also sabotaged the relay station before leaving, halting programmes to the western region. Al Mujahid newspaper said.

They burst into the facility at Ain Nsour on Sunday night and forced the five staff to halt programmes and broadcast instead a tape of GIA propaganda, the paper said.

Suspected extremists killed an Algerian television journalist overnight in the eastern city of Constantine after posing as police officers and kidnapping him from his home, state television reported Tuesday.

It said Makhoul Boukhezar, who was in his 40s, had his throat slit by assailants

COLUMN

Airwaves spies seek damages for deafness

LONDON (R) — British

government eavesdroppers are seeking damages for developing hearing difficulties while tracking foreign radio communications. Staff at the State Monitoring Headquarters at Cheltenham in western England say they are suffering from deafness and tinnitus — ringing in the ears — because their work involves finding and deciphering radio signals against a huzzing background of static. Staff Federation Chairman Brian Moore told reporters 40 cases were outstanding. Some staff said they suffered from what they called "acoustic trauma" and alleged that headphones could not provide adequate protection.

Jazz great Lionel Hampton suffers stroke

NEW YORK (R) — Jazz

great Lionel Hampton is in hospital after suffering a stroke, his publicist said. Hampton, 86, suffered the stroke Friday night and was resting comfortably at New York's Mount Sinai Hospital, publicist Phil Leshin said. The musician suffered a more serious stroke in 1992. Hampton, whose jazz career began in the 1920s, pioneered and popularised the vibraphone as a jazz instrument. He joined drummer Gene Krupa and pianist Teddy Wilson in the famous Benny Goodman Quartet and played in Goodman's band until 1940, when Hampton organised his own orchestra. In the 1940s and 1950s, Hampton enjoyed immense success with a series of recordings and all-star bands. Hampton, who lives in New York City, has been playing recently in small groups with other big name musicians from his swing era heyday.

Jakarta declares war against foreign names

JAKARTA (AP) — City

officials have ordered foreign words removed from the names of buildings and businesses on major streets of Jakarta, a news agency reported Monday. Owners have until Aug. 17, the 50th anniversary of Indonesia's independence from Dutch colonial rulers, to translate foreign words on sign boards into the local Bahasa Indonesia language. The Antara News Agency said. A popular landmark in Jakarta, "Citraland Shopping Centre," now will be called "Citratanaah Pusat Perdagangan." "Citra" in Bahasa means "image" while "land" is "tanah." "Pusat" means "centre." Lippo Village, a new Jakarta suburb, will be renamed "Desa Lippo." "We have to be proud of our own language. It's now time to improve our own identity as a nation," Jakarta Governor Surjadi Sudirja was quoted as saying by Antara, the officials news agency. The city administration promulgated a law in 1992 on using Bahasa in the names of office buildings. President Suharto will launch a nationwide campaign next month on the use of the national language, which is similar to the Malay language. "Bahasa Malaysia." Both Languages use the Roman script.

China pulls the veil off marriage scams

BEIJING (AFP) — China's

central government has stepped in to clamp down on marriage agencies that cheat hopeful clients looking for overseas spouses, a report said Tuesday. A circular issued by the country's highest governing body, the State Council, prohibits any agencies, organisations or individuals from engaging in such services for profit. The China Daily said. Agencies or individuals found cheating their clients or seeking excessive profits "will face harsh punishment," the newspaper quoted a State Administration for Industry and Commerce official as saying. Penalties will include heavy fines and the confiscation of any illegal income. The official added. The move is aimed at regulating the chaotic expansion of the match-making industry in recent years.